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THE TIMES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

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Three Britons sent home from Olympics for taking forbidden substances

Anger at delay in announcing drug test bans

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

THE three British Olympic sportsmen sent home from Barcelona for taking drugs were last night at the centre of a dispute over the timing of their test results.

In the biggest blow to Britain's reputation in the 96 years of the modern Olympic Games, the two weightlifters and sprinter received positive results in random out-of-competition tests carried out by the Sports Council in Britain earlier this month. However, the results were not given to the British Olympic Association until Tuesday.

The British contingent in Barcelona were last night trying to put their disappointment behind them on the eve of the athletics events. Tony Ward, of the British Athletic Association, said: "It was a shock when the team were told this morning, but this afternoon morale lifted greatly. It is our belief that the team has not been too adversely affected by the news."

Jason Livingston, the sprinter nicknamed "Baby Ben" because of his physical resemblance to Ben Johnson, was found to have traces of Methandianone, an anabolic steroid, in his urine test.

The sprinter, 21, from Thornton Heath, Surrey, was informed late on Tuesday that the results of his sample A test were positive and he returned home early on Wednesday. A second test, on urine taken at the same time as the first sample, has been carried out and the Sports Council said that this had also proved positive. Livingston now faces a mandatory four-year ban and he must appear before the disciplinary committee of the British Athletic Federation.

Tony Lester replaced Ron Roddan as Livingston's coach last January. He went out to the Games on Wednesday without realising that Livingston was already on his way home.

The two weightlifters, An-

drew Davies and Andrew Saxton, have admitted taking Clenbuterol, a stimulant and anabolic agent that comes under the categories of the International Olympic Committee's proscribed list. Saxton says he took the drug to relieve an asthmatic condition and gave Davies the same substance when he complained of a "tight" chest. Both are now suspended for life under the rules of the British Amateur Weightlifters Association and both have said they will appeal against the sentence.

Saxton, 24, from Oxford, who won a gold medal at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, was to have competed in the 100 kilo class. He was tested on July 11 and returned to Britain on Wednesday as did Davies, 25, who won a silver medal at the 1990 World championships.

The tests were the last batch of more than 1,000 carried out by the Sports Council and a backlog of samples to be analysed at the King's College laboratory in Chelsea meant results were only known once the Games had started. Dick Palmer, the head of the British team, admitted that this was "regrettable". He said that the scandal had caused emotional distress to the three competitors, management and the rest of the team.

Caroline Searle, the team spokeswoman, said: "We

should apologise to our Spanish hosts for having brought this problem to their doorstep." She emphasised that action had been taken as quickly as possible. "We would have preferred this to have come when we were in the UK but, because of the backlog of testing, we understand why we could not have got the information earlier."

Tamas Ajan, head of the International Weightlifting Federation, said that he was very happy that Britain's Olympic committee had conducted the tests but he insisted that the results should have been published in London. "These out-of-competition tests are not related to the International Federation and not related to the Olympic Games. These tests were conducted 15 or 16 days ago. Why disturb the Games with this kind of information?"

However, the Sports Council defended itself against criticism that it took too long to produce test results. Derek Casey, in charge of the drugs control programme, insisted that the results were processed as part of the routine testing procedure, and that they had taken no longer than usual. Norman Jacobs, of the Sports Council, said: "What we are concerned with is telling the world when we find cheating. As regards embarrassment, everyone in the room would agree there is no best time to break bad news."

About 1,050 random out-of-competition tests have been carried out on prospective Olympic team members over the past year.

John Gorrod, research professor and professor of biopharmaceutics at the International Olympic Committee approved laboratory which carried out the tests, said yesterday that it was sad that extra postgraduate student staff could not have been employed to process the samples.

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Baby Ben made shamed Johnson his hero

By RAY CLANCY

JASON Livingston idolised Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson and dreamed of winning gold but without the help of drugs. Livingston, known to family and friends as "Baby Ben", adorned his bedroom wall with photographs of Johnson who was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal at the Seoul Olympics after testing positive for drugs.

Livingston, 21, often spoke about how

he would follow in Johnson's footsteps. "One of my dreams is to run as fast as Ben did and win the titles he did, but clearly, what he did was wrong and we all know that. He deserved to be punished," he said in a television interview.

He even copied Johnson's explosive burst from the blocks and looked set for Olympic glory. He became European indoor 60 metres champion in Genoa and clocked a personal best of 10.09 seconds in the 100 metres at Crystal

Palace. He won the European Under 23 Cup at Gateshead earlier this month.

Brian Smith, vice-president of Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers, Livingston's club, said he had the potential to be world champion. "This was Jason's first time at the Olympics and he was very excited. But like all the other competitors he knew that tests were always going to be made. I can only think all this is because of his height. At 5ft 4in he thought he was at a disadvantage."

Honecker faces 49 counts of Berlin Wall killings

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN BERLIN

ERICH Honecker, the former East German leader who was returned from his Moscow exile to Germany on Wednesday night, was yesterday led before a judge and arraigned on 49 counts of manslaughter for the deaths of escapees at the Berlin Wall and the internal German border.

He was also charged with embezzling state funds and abuse of power, charges relating to the privileged lifestyle he ensured for himself and other Politburo members in their living compound at Wandlitz.

The hearing, which was held in camera, lasted 15 minutes, after which the former leader was returned to the prison hospital for health tests. He had claimed to be too ill to return to Germany,

but made a sprightly impression as he was escorted into court.

Herr Honecker made no statement to the judge. He emerged from Moabit court, where he was last sentenced as a young communist under the Nazis, carrying his famous fedora hat and smiled wanly at his lawyer before being whisked into a waiting car and back to prison.

Jutta Limbach, Berlin's justice minister, said yesterday that she expected the case to begin in the autumn and that it could take up to two years to complete. "We should be under no illusions that this is going to be a dramatic, clear-cut case. It is one of the most complex I have come across," she said.

Herr Honecker's return coincides with the absence of

Born's senior politicians who are on their summer holidays. Dieter Vogel, the government spokesman, said yesterday that Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, who is in Austria, had been relieved to hear of the former East German leader's return and had responded to the news by saying: "It was about time. Now the trial can begin." Herr Vogel also told German television that there had been no deal with either the Chilean or the Russian government to secure Herr Honecker's return.

Friedrich Wolf, one of the three lawyers defending Herr Honecker, said that his client

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Comrade Margot, page 10
Germany on trial, page 12
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ICI splits into two companies

ICI, Britain's biggest industrial firm, saw its shares soar 76p to £11.71 after it announced a planned demerger of its pharmaceuticals and biological businesses to create a new company, ICI Bio, worth between £5 billion and £6 billion. ICI reported disappointing half-year results with pretax profits for the first six months down from £507 million to £420 million. Page 17

Stealing argument, page 21

ITV chief

Andrew Quinn, who takes control of ITV's £500 million-a-year network budget this autumn as the channel's first chief executive, has warned that current affairs will not survive in peak time without audiences of more than eight million. Page 5

Proposed tax reform may lower car prices

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR prices could drop by as much as 10 per cent as a result of changes in company-car taxation proposed yesterday by the government.

An Inland Revenue consultation document says that calculations of company-car tax must be based on the price of a car rather than, as at present, related to engine size. The change is expected to mean that 1.2 million people, particularly small-car users travelling long mileages for their companies, could save up to 10 per cent on annual tax bills. As many as 700,000 executives driving company cars could lose out. The majority face increases in their tax bills of 10 per cent but 200,000 could pay up to 40 per cent more. However, the wider impact could be on Britain's car market, widely

criticised as the most expensive in Europe. Analysts expect the government to opt for a new company-car system which makes the list price of a car the basis of the tax calculation. Manufacturers, who refused to lower prices after the enquiry this year by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, could be forced to compete on prices without being able to offer the sort of discounts which have severely distorted the market in the past.

Buyers seeking their new K-registration cars today will be forced to bargain for discounts worth between 10 and 20 per cent on some models. The new rules for company-car tax may force manufacturers to

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Move over driver, this car is being hijacked

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

YOU are sitting in your car at a traffic light, and a man climbs into the passenger seat. Perhaps he has mistaken you for a taxi? No, he has a gun. He is hijacking your car. Politely, he asks you to step out and leave the engine running, and then drives away.

The increasing sophistication of car alarms has prompted thieves in New York and other American port cities to take up carjacking, stealing cars while their owners are still in them. This avoids the trouble and damage of hot-wiring or breaking into the vehicle, and ensures that the stolen model is in good mechanical order.

Police say teams of "carjackers" are usually commissioned to steal specific types of car. Once stolen,

they are immediately loaded onto waiting vessels and shipped abroad where they can command two or three times their original price.

More than 700 cars have been hijacked in New York so far this year, with Mercedes, BMWs and Porsches proving particularly popular targets. Fear of hijacking has sent a wave of panic through New York chauffeurs. Rather than wait outside expensive restaurants as their employers dine within, stretch limousines and other valuable cars have taken to cruising in packs for protection, causing some remarkable traffic jams.

The hijackers earn about \$1,000 (£525) per car, but the big money is made by the intermediaries who commission and ship the cars abroad. Last December police broke up a hijacking gang that had been hired to steal 178 luxury cars, worth about \$4.4 million, for shipment to

West Africa. The traditional market for stolen luxury cars is South and Central America, but police say the increase in hijacking reflects a growing demand in the Indian subcontinent and among organised crime bosses in the former Soviet Union. Police believe some of the stolen cars are being paid for out of profits from heroin trafficking.

In December the congressional subcommittee on crime held hearings on car theft, and in particular the rise of carjacking. "It has been reported all across the country," said Representative Charles Schumer, chairman of the committee. Los Angeles and Detroit were the two cities with the biggest problems, he said.

"No question, the thieves have become more brazen," says Deputy Inspector Ronald Thrust, commander of New York's auto crime division. On a New York freeway recently, a

couple was stopped in their car when two other cars sandwiched them to a halt in the middle lane, bringing traffic behind to a screeching stop. The thieves then commandeered the vehicle at gunpoint, leaving the owners to make for safety on the nearest hard shoulder.

In another incident, a car was hijacked after leaving a drive-in pizza parlour. The thief took the car and the pizza. Car-pirating may also be having an adverse effect on New York City's already appalling driving techniques. If another car bumps into you lightly, police now advise, it may simply be an attempt to get you to stop so that your car can be stolen: drive on. "New Yorkers don't like to stop anyway," said one driving instructor. "Now there is the added danger that if they do, someone may steal their car. So they drive like hell."

TODAY IN THE TIMES

COURTING TROUBLE



Michael Grade and Channel 4 face a court's judgment today over their determination to withhold the identity of an informant

Life & Times page 1

TROUBLE SHOOTERS



Some of the women of Sarajevo dress to kill, and their targets are the Serb snipers who bring terror to the city

Page 10

TROUBLED WATERS



Anna Hunter is charting a route to survival after a savage knife attack

Life & Times page 5

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OPEN IN WATFORD SOON

Winning a shoestring battle to keep British sport clean

THE three British sportsmen sent home from Barcelona after tests showed they had been taking drugs were caught by one of the world's most rigorous dope testing programmes which costs the Sports Council in Britain £785,000 a year.

Recently, the council has increased out-of-competition testing which in some cases can mean that the first an athlete knows that a test is wanted and a urine sample required is a knock at the door by an independent dope inspector appointed by the council. Derek Casey, the director responsible at the council for doping control, said random out-of-competition tests were carried out when squads are training.

Other such tests involve a dope tests official giving a competitor 24 hours' notice that a sample is required or

DRUGS AND TESTING

A knock at the door of athletes' homes may be first they know of a dope inspector's checks. Nick Nuttall reports on stringent new tests for drug-taking

An official is arriving at a their home requesting a sample. Mr Casey said all three athletes had been tested in this way with two tested at home and one at squad training. The samples would have been sent by courier in security tagged containers to the testing laboratory in London where they are held under tight security in freezers before being screened.

They were tested on July 10, 12 and 15 but the Sports Council did not have the results until Tuesday and Wednesday of this week despite the laboratory which carries out the tests being able to

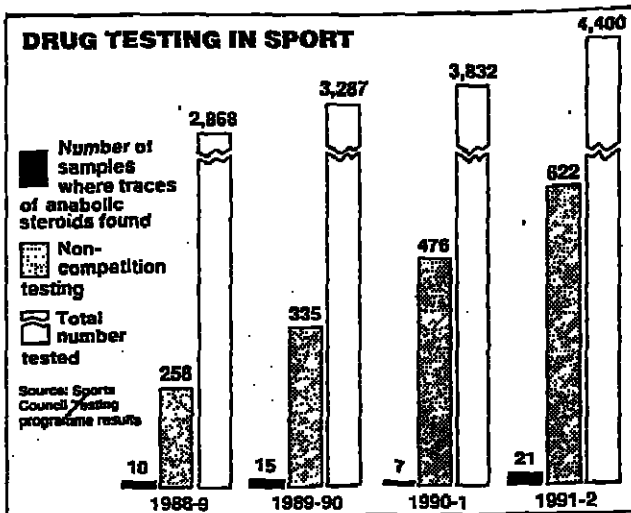
process a sample in 24 hours. The council rejected claims that the British team had been embarrassed by this delay and that, if the results had been available before the sportsmen left for Barcelona, three other competitors could have taken their place. A spokeswoman for the council said that they normally get results back within ten working days.

"We normally do over 4,000 tests in a year. In the last eight weeks we did 1,050 and these samples which tested positive were still back within 10 working days." The positive samples had been

among the last batch of tests, she said.

But John Gorrod, research professor and professor of biopharmaceutics at the International Olympic Committee approved laboratory which carries out the tests, said yesterday that it was said that extra postgraduate student staff could not have been employed to process the samples before the athletes departed.

"The council are doing the best within the resources available. But in this case it is difficult to understand why a few extra bob could not have been spent to get all these samples processed before the athletes left and with the subsequent saving of money," said Professor Gorrod, former director of the laboratory's drug control and teaching centre, based at King's College, University of London. He said research



into drug abuse, new substances and the increasingly sophisticated ways in which athletes could attempt to mask the chemicals they take needed more funding. "The

research. This needs to be much more coordinated. It needs to be funded by the IOC, the World Health Organisation or individual governments," he said.

The anabolic steroid for which Jason Livingston, the runner, tested positive is methandienone, a substance not prescribed in Britain for medical reasons.

David Cowan, director of the IOC approved laboratory, said anabolic steroids act in a similar way to the male hormone testosterone. They not only helped to increase muscle bulk but removed symptoms of over-exertion. "They allow you to compete even when the body is saying no," he said.

Anabolic steroids have several dangerous side-effects which can build up over several years. They can stunt growth by affecting the

growth at the end of bones, cause psychological changes, harm the liver and damage the heart and circulation.

In men they can shrink the testicles and harm sperm production. In women they can trigger acne, lead to male-like hair growth and suppress menstruation and the normal workings of the ovaries.

Clenbuterol, the substance for which the two weightlifters tested positive, is similar in chemical structure and effect to adrenalin, the naturally produced hormone.

Dr Cowan, whose team use the latest gas chromatography and mass spectrometry equipment to separate chemicals in urine samples, said the drug, although not mentioned by name in the IOC list of banned substances, falls into the banned classes covering stimulants and steroids.

Athletes condemned for their stupidity

BY RAY CLANCY

THE weightlifters sent home from the Olympic Games in disgrace after tests indicated they had taken drugs were guilty of stupidity because they had thrown away the chance of medals, their colleagues said yesterday.

The positive test on the Welsh lifter Andrew Davies was a particularly unwelcome blow to the sport in Wales. In 1990 two Welsh weightlifters were sent home from the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand for taking drugs.

Mr Davies, 25, a 110kg super-heavyweight lifter, who trained daily in a gym built for him by his father at the back of the family home in Caldicot, Gwent, did not comment yesterday. Andrew Saxton, 25, who lifts in the 100kg class, said from his home in Oxford that he would be appealing against the test result.

Sebastian Coe, Conservative MP for Falmouth and Camborne and double Olympic champion runner, said the latest tests showed that the system was working. "I recommended back in 1987 that we had random out-of-competition testing. It is now beginning to weed them out," he said.

At the gyms where the two

men trained and at their homes there were tears, shock and brief explanations yesterday. Fellow athletes could not believe they had taken drugs and indicated they may have been taking medication. But Welsh national coach Den Welch thought no excuse was good enough. "Clenbuterol is a designer drug which retains muscle size while reducing body fat by 20 per cent. It can also be taken for asthma. You can use it to gain maximum strength while keeping within your body weight," he said.

"They are stupid for doing it. It was cheating. Most steroids can help any injury and are used a lot in weightlifting. But they knew they were going to the Olympic Games. There was no reason to take anything. They were crazy to do it." He said the two men deserved to be sent home.

Weightlifter Duncan Dawkins, 25, from Bristol, was in the Olympic squad with Davies and Saxton until a back injury forced him to pull out six months ago. He said he was upset by the news: "I trained with both of them and can't believe this has happened. Both were great

lifters. Davies was almost certainly on for a medal."

He added that the use of steroids, particularly Clenbuterol, was widespread in weightlifting. "Until recently there was no test that picked it up. Some athletes, especially weightlifters, are always looking out for stimulants that are untraceable."

The chairman of the Sports Council for Wales, Ossie Wheatley, said the organisation would have to work hard "to eradicate the cancer of drug abuse in Welsh sport", and described athletes who used drugs as "the unwanted pariahs of sport".

Mr Saxton, who is coached by his father Eddie and has won Commonwealth gold and bronze medals, emerged briefly last night and said: "I am innocent."

"I cannot say anything else except that we are appealing against the decision and we hope we can get it reversed." He appeared to be close to tears as he stood on the lawn in front of his home.

His solicitor, Robert Hawes, said Mr Saxton had been taking medication on July 10, the day of the test. His family said he had been suffering from asthma and had also been in pain from a back problem before he went to Barcelona.

At the Morris Motors sports club where Mr Saxton trained the mood was subdued. Chris Moxon, the club secretary, said: "Andy knew the risks of random testing. I cannot believe he would have chanced it. There is an appeal pending and we will wait for that before talking about any disgrace."

Mr Moxon added that Mr Saxton had been an inspiration to younger weightlifters. "He is the one they all look up to. He is so good it is a big let down, a shock and disappointment for the British team."

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Fallen idols: Jason Livingston, top, at his Croydon home with pictures of his hero Ben Johnson; Andrew Davies at a weightlifting competition, left, and Andrew Saxton, right, outside his Cowley home yesterday

MP tries to outlaw possession

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

MENZIES Campbell urged the government yesterday to support his private member's bill, which seeks to make the possession of anabolic steroids a criminal offence.

Mr Campbell, the Liberal Democrat spokesman on sport, said he hoped that the news from Barcelona would finally convince the government to outlaw the drugs.

He has put forward the bill each year since 1989. It has been backed by several British Olympic team members, including Kriss Akabusi, Adrian Moorhouse and Sharon Davies. If passed, it would make possession of anabolic steroids without a medical prescription illegal, alongside cannabis and amphetamines, under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

The bill had an unopposed first reading earlier this year, but stands little chance of becoming law without government backing. The government has in the past given

qualified support to the idea of tightening legislation against supplying bodybuilding drugs. A pledge was made three years ago to outlaw anabolic steroids, and that intention has been reiterated frequently in private.

Instead, last year, the Home Office announced stiffer penalties for people supplying anabolic steroids to people under 18, even if no payment was involved, and funding for a new study into the use and misuse of hormone drugs. Kenneth Baker, then home secretary, said supplying the drug to minors would become a criminal offence but, 17 months later, it has yet to reach the statute books. A spokesman said yesterday: "We are still awaiting a suitable legislative slot."

It is currently against the law to sell anabolic steroids, except for medical reasons, but not to possess them, despite evidence of the physical and psychological harm that they can cause.

Will to win overtakes first shame

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

A FEELING at first of shame among the British team has been replaced by a determination to succeed. Tony Ward, of the British Athletics Federation, said: "There was shock when the team were told this morning but this afternoon morale has lifted greatly. It is our belief the team has not been too adversely affected by the news."

The British Olympic Association yesterday officially

BRITISH TEAM

apologised to the Games organisers for the scandal. What is particularly galling for Britain is that no other drug incident has occurred in Barcelona and that the United Kingdom has been in the forefront of the fight against drug abuse.

Dennis White, the judo fighter who is competing in his third Games, said he had been talking to Andrew Davies only the day before. "We were aware that after the last drug incident with Ben Johnson that if you take drugs then you should always consult with a doctor first. There's been much more information about this since Seoul so they have no excuses."

White agreed with the decision to send them home, saying that if they had been allowed to perform first and then the disclosures had occurred it would have been worse for the competitors and the team. "It is still bad news to know that people are using banned substances."

From original sins in ancient Greece to anabolic steroids

DRUGS AND SPORT

John Goodbody, co-author of an award-winning investigation by *The Times* into the traffic of anabolic steroids, records the scandals that have made history

Ancient Olympic Games: Evidence from Pylaeostatos and Galen that competitors used many dietary methods to improve performance. They include eating sheep's testicles.

1865: Swimmers use drugs during canal races in Amsterdam.

1879: Six-day cyclists begin using drugs.

1904: Thomas Hicks of the United States wins the Olympic marathon with the help of strychnine.

1906: Knud Jensen, of Denmark, dies during the Olympic Games 100-kilometre team time-trial cycling race after taking amphetamine and nicotine tartrate.

1921: American weightlifters begin using anabolic steroids.

1964: Scandal breaks over Everton's League championship victory in 1962-3. Albert Dunlop, one of the team, reveals players took stimulants.

1966: The first five men in the professional road race at the world cycling championships refuse to take drug tests. They include Jacques Anquetil, the

five-times winner of the Tour de France, who later says: "Everyone in cycling dopes himself, and those who claim they do not are liars."

1967: Tommy Simpson, the 1965 world champion, dies during the Tour de France from heart failure after taking amphetamine and methylamphetamine.

1968: First big programme of testing at the Olympic Games in Grenoble and Mexico.

1969: Eduard de Noorlander, of Holland, becomes the first athlete to be disqualified for drug abuse after finishing sixth in the European decathlon.

1972: 2,290 competitors are tested at the Olympics in Sapporo and Munich. Eight are

tested positive.

1973: Professor Raymond Brooks, at St Thomas's Hospital, discovers method of detecting anabolic steroids in competitors' urine.

1974: Experimental tests, using Professor Brooks's technique, are carried out at the Commonwealth Games without intention of action. Nine of the 55 samples are found to contain hormone drugs.

1975: The IOC and the International Amateur Athletic Federation introduce immediate disqualification for any competitor taking steroids.

1976: Tests are carried out for steroids at the Olympic Games for the first time. In Montreal, 11 competitors are found positive, eight for hor-

more drugs, including Lasse Viren, the Finnish long-distance runner, who says he "only drank reindeer milk".

1977: Testing for steroids shows up six athletes as positive at the European Cup finals in Helsinki.

1978: Michel Pollentier, the leader of the Tour de France, is discovered at a drugs control to have a bag under his arm containing untainted urine.

1979: Widespread use of anabolic steroids is revealed among the world's leading female middle-distance runners.

1980: Different studies in America show that more than 40 per cent of the leading professional basketball players have taken cocaine.

1983: Eleven weightlifters from nine countries are found positive for anabolic steroids at the Pan-American Games.

1984: A record 12 competitors are disqualified for drug abuse at the 1984 Olympic Games.

1985: Tony Fitton, the British powerlifter who was third in

the 1976 world championships, is arrested in California for trafficking in drugs.

1986: Robin McGregor, a Scottish shooter, becomes the first Briton to be found positive in the Commonwealth Games, for a beta-blocker taken for a heart condition.

1987: March: David Singh, an Essex bodybuilder, dies from a ruptured liver caused by "unmonitored drug-taking".

September: Colin Moynihan, the sports minister, says that some British governing bodies have "made deals" to ensure that certain competitors would not be tested at big events.

November: David Jenkins, the 1972 Olympic silver medal winner, pleads guilty in San Diego to his part in a £100 million drugs smuggling ring involving Mexico and the United States.

1988: April: Jeff Gutteridge, the international pole vaulter, becomes the first Briton to be caught in new, unannounced, drug-testing programme.

September: Ben Johnson, who took anabolic steroids before his 100 metres victory, is one of ten competitors at the Olympic Games to be disqualified for drug abuse.

1989: The Dublin Commission, which was ordered by the Canadian government after the positive test on Johnson, discloses widespread drug-taking.

1990: Dean Willey, twice Commonwealth weightlifting champion, is dropped from the English team after an adverse finding for the games in Auckland.

1991: Evidence comes in of state-controlled drug-taking in the former East Germany.

1992: Karin Krabbe, the world 100 and 200 metres champion, and two of her German colleagues, Silke Möller and Grit Breuer, are

suspended after urine samples prove to be identical. However the trio are all cleared by the IAAF who find the correct testing protocol had not been observed.

Krabbe: cleared after mix-up over testing

Lyle Akado, former American football star, dies aged 41 from cancer, saying that his illness has been caused by taking anabolic steroids over many years.

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Krabbe: cleared after mix-up over testing

Lyle Akado, former American football star, dies aged 41 from cancer, saying that his illness has been caused by taking anabolic steroids over many years.

Court backs patient's right to refuse vital treatment

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS will have a new duty to ensure that a patient's refusal of life-saving treatment is genuine after an appeal court ruling yesterday enshrined the absolute right of adults to choose their medical treatment.

In the first case in the English courts to test the principle, the judges held that adult patients with no mental incapacity had an absolute right to refuse, or consent to, medical treatment. However, doctors must make sure the refusal is not made under the influence of others. If in doubt, doctors must immediately seek court approval before carrying out treatment against the patient's stated wishes.

"In all cases doctors will need to consider what is the true scope and basis of refusal," Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, said.

The appeal judges also set out guidelines for doctors facing refusal to accept treatment, and called for the redesigning of standard refusal forms to be signed by patients objecting to blood transfusions to bring the consequences "forcibly" home to them.

The judges were giving reasons for their decision last week upholding a High Court order that "T", a 20-year-old woman, could be given blood and transfusions although she had apparently refused such treatment. Lord Donaldson said he was dismayed at the layout of the refusal form signed by the road-accident victim when she declined blood transfu-

Court ruling, won by the father and two West Midlands health authorities responsible for T's treatment, that doctors could give transfusions because she had been influenced by her mother and because hospital staff lulled her into a false sense of security by misinforming her as to the availability and effectiveness of alternatives to blood transfusions. The woman signed the refusal form before developing complications and giving birth to a stillborn child — emergencies making blood transfusions necessary.

The judges dismissed an appeal by the Official Solicitor, David Venables, who is acting for the woman because she is unconscious and unable to conduct her own affairs. Lord Donaldson said the case was not, as some had described it, about the "right to die". "There is no suggestion that Miss T wants to die," he said. "I do not doubt that she wants to live and we all hope that she will. This appeal is about the right to choose how to live."

The case raised for the first time in the English courts the question of an adult's right to choose one treatment over another, though there had been similar actions in respect of children and mental patients. The problem arose in rare situations where an adult declined treatment that doctors judged necessary if irreparable damage was not to be done to health or, in some cases, if a life was to be saved.

Although the patient's right of choice existed whether the reasons for the choice were rational, irrational, unknown or even non-existent, difficulties arose if, when the decision was made, the patient had been subjected to outside influences.

The court gave leave for an appeal to the House of Lords, although T will continue to be treated in accordance with the court ruling.

□ A Jehovah's Witness who had refused to accept a blood transfusion died during an operation after his family, who had not been told he had been admitted to hospital, missed a chance to try to talk him out of his decision, an inquest heard yesterday. Brian Hunt, 49, of Bromley, southeast London, died during a bowel operation in the Lewisham hospital on May 26.

Sir Montague Levine, the Southwark coroner, adjourned the inquest after learning that Mr Hunt had been in hospital three days without any of his family knowing. "I am in no way critical of what happened but we should have the surgeon here to discuss the point," he said.



Donaldson: dismayed by treatment forms

sions under the influence of her mother, a devout Jehovah's Witness, whose faith precludes the medical use of blood.

The court was told yesterday by Alan Levy QC, for T's father, who is not a Jehovah's Witness and is divorced from her mother, that there had been a slight improvement in her condition, but she remained critically ill.

Lord Donaldson and Lords Justices Bristow and Stoughton upheld a High



Bangles and beads: chunky accessories complement the Paris fashions of Paco Rabanne and Givenchy. Rabanne's futuristic silver and gold spiked bodice is worn over a long-sleeved black and silver sheath dress as part of the designer's autumn and

winter collection. Givenchy's soft, split-skirt black satin cocktail dress has a deep décolleté and belted waist. Thierry Mugler, a designer known for his futuristic Star Trek tailoring for men and bosomy Barbra Streisand outfits for women, staged his first couture



collection at the close of the Paris high fashion season. Clients were presented with a display of which black vinyl and rubber jackets, pleated glass bustiers and skin-tight suits trailing cobweb capes of finely seamed black chiffon.

Brittle bone disease linked to poor vitamin D intake

WOMEN could cut their risk of developing brittle bone disease by taking more vitamin D, doctors claim.

A study of 138 middle-aged women has found that bone density is linked to the concentration in the body of a certain type of vitamin D. Three doctors, led by Professor Kay-Tee Khaw of Addenbrooke's hospital in Cambridge, say a fourfold increase in daily adult vitamin D intake would increase bone density by 5 per cent to 10 per cent.

Their report in the *British Medical Journal* says the public health implications of their work are considerable and could help to prevent some of the 130,000 vertebral fractures in Britain every year.

Vitamin D concentrations could be increased by exposure to sunlight for 30 minutes a day, not an amount likely to increase appreciably the risk of skin cancer, or by increasing the mean adult intake from 100 to 400 international units — a dose well below levels that are potentially toxic, the report says.

There is a pronounced seasonal variation in bone density, the report says. In winter, vitamin D concentrations and bone density decrease. A doubling of hip fractures in men and women in the past

A study urging more exposure to sunshine has received a mixed reaction, says Alison Roberts

30 years coincides with a decline in dietary vitamin D intake, it says. Other osteoporosis experts are sceptical about the findings. David Heath, reader in medicine at the University of Birmingham, said women should consult their doctor before rushing to buy vitamin D and should be aware of the harmful effects of large doses of the vitamin. "If osteoporosis was caused by a low level of vitamin D, then men would get it as much as women. In America, where milk is fortified with vitamin D, osteoporosis is just as much of a problem."

Dr Heath said a link between levels of vitamin D deficiency and osteomalacia — bone softening as a result of defective calcium absorption — had been found.

Osteoporotic fractures of the hip, vertebrae and wrist are a big cause of illness in older people, particularly in post-menopausal women. As people age and bone mass declines there is a big in-

crease in fractures. Every year 44,000 women fracture their hips, although not all because of brittle bones. Of these, 6,000 die. Dr Heath said an adequate diet and exercise were good protection against the disease. Hormone replacement therapy was the most effective remedy.

The study showed that bone density at the lumbar spine, neck and thigh was inversely related to parathyroid hormone concentrations in the blood. The hormone promotes the release of calcium from the bones and high levels can lead to bone softening. A change in vitamin D status can influence parathyroid hormone levels and subsequent fracture risk.

The Addenbrooke team says that, if those women moderately at risk could increase their vitamin D level, as much as 20 per cent of fractures could be prevented — more than could be achieved by an expensive screening programme in the lowest risk group.

Dr Roger Francis, head of the bone clinic at Newcastle General hospital, said: "I think the role of vitamin D has been relatively neglected. It is certainly important in the elderly household who do not get out in the sun, but I remain sceptical about its effect on younger women."

Haw-Haw novel not obscene

By ALAN HAMILTON

A FICTIONAL novel in which Lord Haw-Haw, the wartime traitor William Joyce, finds Hitler hiding in a cave in Burma, should not be destroyed as an obscene publication, Manchester Crown Court ruled yesterday.

Michael Bunerworth, 45, of Savoy Books, was appealing against a ruling last year by a city magistrate that the novel *Lord Haw-Haw* was obscene, and copies should be destroyed under the Obscene Publications Act. More than 350 copies of the book, by local author David Britton, were seized by Manchester police in 1989.

The crown court, however, upheld the magistrate's decision that a comic, *Meng and Ecker*, based on the book and seized at the same time, was an obscene publication and should be destroyed. Judge Humphries, sitting with two magistrates, said the comic was very different from the book. "It is much more luridly bound and likely to attract the attention of the less educated or literary reader. We consider the comic is a glorification of racism and violence by some people."

The book could not be held to deprave or corrupt the limited type of readership it would enjoy, Judge Humphries said. At the original magistrate's hearing last year both book and comic were said to be anti-semitic. Ian Lewis, solicitor for Mr Britton, said an appeal against the banning of the comic would be considered. No copy of the book or comic had been sold since the original seizure.



Passport to France L&T section, page 4

Lord Haw-Haw, the traitor William Joyce

NEWS IN BRIEF

Body of boy found near golf course

A post-mortem examination was carried out last night on the body of a nine-year-old boy found naked and strangled in an old air raid shelter on the edge of a golf course at Hounslow Heath in west London. Police believe the child may be Christopher Stanley, who went missing on Wednesday while playing outside his home in Hounslow close to the course. Det Supt Chris Burke, in charge of the murder investigation, said the dead boy fitted Christopher's description but complete confirmation would be made by a formal identification today.

The boy's disappearance prompted a widespread search across the heath and surrounding areas. Police worked all night using dogs and a helicopter but the body was found yesterday in the shelter by two boys searching for golf balls on the fifteenth tee.

Graham Young, one of the greenkeepers working on the course, said: "That part of the golf course is a very busy place even though it's covered in trees. You get all types of people walking along the track by the pillow. There are kids looking for golf balls, people taking short cuts to the nearby shops and sometimes you see weird people." David Mayne, another greenkeeper, said: "Around the pillow, it is overgrown and stinks. It's dark, dingy and musty-smelling inside the shelter." Hundreds of golfers teed off within yards of the pillow every day, he said.

Yesterday Christopher's relatives gathered at the home where he had lived with his grandmother, Mrs Diana Stanley, since he was a baby. Christopher's mother lives in Bedford near by and detectives broke the news to her there. His aunt, Jane Webb, said: "It's just awful. He was such a happy little boy and everybody loved him. The family haven't really come to terms with it yet." Alison West, a neighbour, said: "He was always playing in the street. His grandmother doted on him."

Police were last night questioning a 24-year-old man.

Smoker's challenge

A retired taxi-driver who has smoked for more than 40 years and cannot take more than a few steps without stopping for breath is to challenge the directors of Rothmans at the company's annual meeting in London today to admit the causal link between smoking and ill health. Tony Mulhearn, 54, of Liverpool, is one of more than 250 smokers who have come forward since the law firms Leigh Day & Co and Bindmans launched a joint campaign to mount the first legal action against tobacco companies in the United Kingdom. He has travelled to London with a fellow sufferer and is going to the meeting as a proxy shareholder for Action on Smoking and Health.

Salmonella cases rise

Salmonella poisoning is rising sharply in spite of the slaughter of hundreds of infected egg-laying flocks. In the second quarter of this year there were 3,606 cases of salmonella enteritidis PT4, the strain mainly associated with eggs and poultry, a 41 per cent increase on the same period last year, according to a Public Health Laboratory Service study for the Food Safety Advisory Centre. In nine of the 18 outbreaks between January and March, eggs and/or poultry were the "suspect vehicle". Four involved people who had eaten dishes made with raw eggs. The study also found salmonella in a quarter of 232 samples of chicken in supermarkets, butchers and market stalls.

Servant sues paper

A former servant of the Princess Royal is bringing a rare claim of malicious falsehood against *Today* newspaper, which, if given the go-ahead by the Court of Appeal today, may open up a new route for people who cannot afford libel actions. The maid, Linda Joyce, is suing the newspaper over an article in 1989 that alleged she stole letters written to the princess by the Queen's equestrian, Commander Timothy Laurence. Legal aid is not available for defamation proceedings but malicious falsehood does qualify for it. Miss Joyce is appealing against *Today*'s successful application for the action to be struck out as frivolous, vexatious and an abuse of process.

Witness tells of terror

A Jewish friend of Jani Allan, who lent her a room in his Johannesburg home while she looked for a new flat, yesterday described his terror when ten armed neo-Nazi followers of Eugene Terre Blanche arrived there in 1988 to help her move out. Martin Kabanowitz, 37, told the High Court that one of the men, members of Mr Terre Blanche's AFB party, said in Afrikaans: "F...ing Jews," as he overheard a conversation about Israel. Miss Allan, 40, a South African journalist now living in London, is suing Channel 4 for libel over a documentary that she alleges portrayed her as "a lady of easy virtue" who had an affair with Mr Terre Blanche.

DNA goes into orbit

The American shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to blast off from Cape Kennedy in Florida at 14.56 British Summer Time today with the world's first fully reusable satellite and an experiment that could help resolve how life began on Earth. The satellite, owned by the European Space Agency, contains bacteria and DNA that will be exposed to solar radiation and the extreme temperatures and near-zero gravity of space. If the organisms and genetic material can survive intact, the experiment may lend weight to the theory promulgated by the astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle that simple organisms travelled across space to colonise Earth and trigger the evolution of modern life forms.

Swindon chief jailed

Brian Hillier, former chairman of Swindon Town FC, was jailed yesterday for 12 months for a tax plot to make secret payments to players. Vince Farrar, 41, the club's former part-time accountant, was given a six-month jail sentence suspended for 12 months. They were convicted on a tax conspiracy charge after a five-week trial at Winchester Crown Court. Judge Starforth Hill told Hillier he was convicted on the most overwhelming evidence. It was clear he had put into practice a scheme to pay substantial sums of cash to players without the knowledge of the Football League and to avoid Inland Revenue tax. The judge accepted that Farrar played a minor role.

STOP PRESS FRANCE - WITH THE TIMES AND LBC

Roads clogged as Parisians begin trek to the beaches

By LUCY ROCK
WITH Parisians starting their annual mass exodus south tomorrow, heavy traffic is likely, with an estimated 11 million people on the French roads over the weekend.

The AA warns motorists to expect congestion on key routes to the south, southeast and the west coast from Saturday morning. Roadworks causing long delays will begin on the Boulevard Périphérique around Paris on Monday, with a contraflow between Porte d'Orléans and Porte de Sèvres.

OFFERS

□ Lansdowne Cities, part of Chalfia, have short breaks to Paris and Nice with optional activities available. For example, two nights at the two-star

Each week throughout the summer, *The Times* and LBC will bring you news of last-minute bargains available for travellers to France. The latest information on bookings, flights, traffic problems and holiday ideas

Parisiana hotel and a return flight cost £149 per person. Extras such as Cordon Bleu cooking lessons or expert fashion advice on the Parisian couture houses can be arranged by Lansdowne at a reasonable cost.

FERRIES

□ Brittany Ferries has no



LBC NEWS TALK 97.3

space available on any Channel crossings over the next week. P&O morning sailings to Calais, Boulogne, Le Havre and Cherbourg are fully booked this weekend. Hoverspeed has limited car space on Seacat sailings, but there is car space left on

afternoon hovercraft crossings from Dover to Calais.

TRAINS

□ Travelling by train can often be quicker and more relaxing than motoring, but beware of thieves taking wallets and luggage from travellers, especially backpackers, on overnight trains.

FLIGHTS

□ Air UK reports good availability on outbound flights from Stansted to Paris and Nice over the weekend. Flights from Newcastle and Aberdeen to Paris are full today and tomorrow. TAT has few seats left on all flights this weekend between Gatwick and Paris, although there is more space on the

Garwick-Lyon route. Air France has plenty of seats on flights to Paris from London City airport, but most flights to Paris from Heathrow are full. All Air France flights to and from Bordeaux are full.

RATES

□ The franc has remained steady against the pound over the past week according to Travelex. Exchange rates for the franc are between 10.11 and 10.14 when buying and 9.25 and 9.28 when selling.

The travel writer Robin Neillands will be interviewed by Angela Rippon on her *Drivetime* programme next Thursday, August 6, at 6.50pm on LBC Newstalk.

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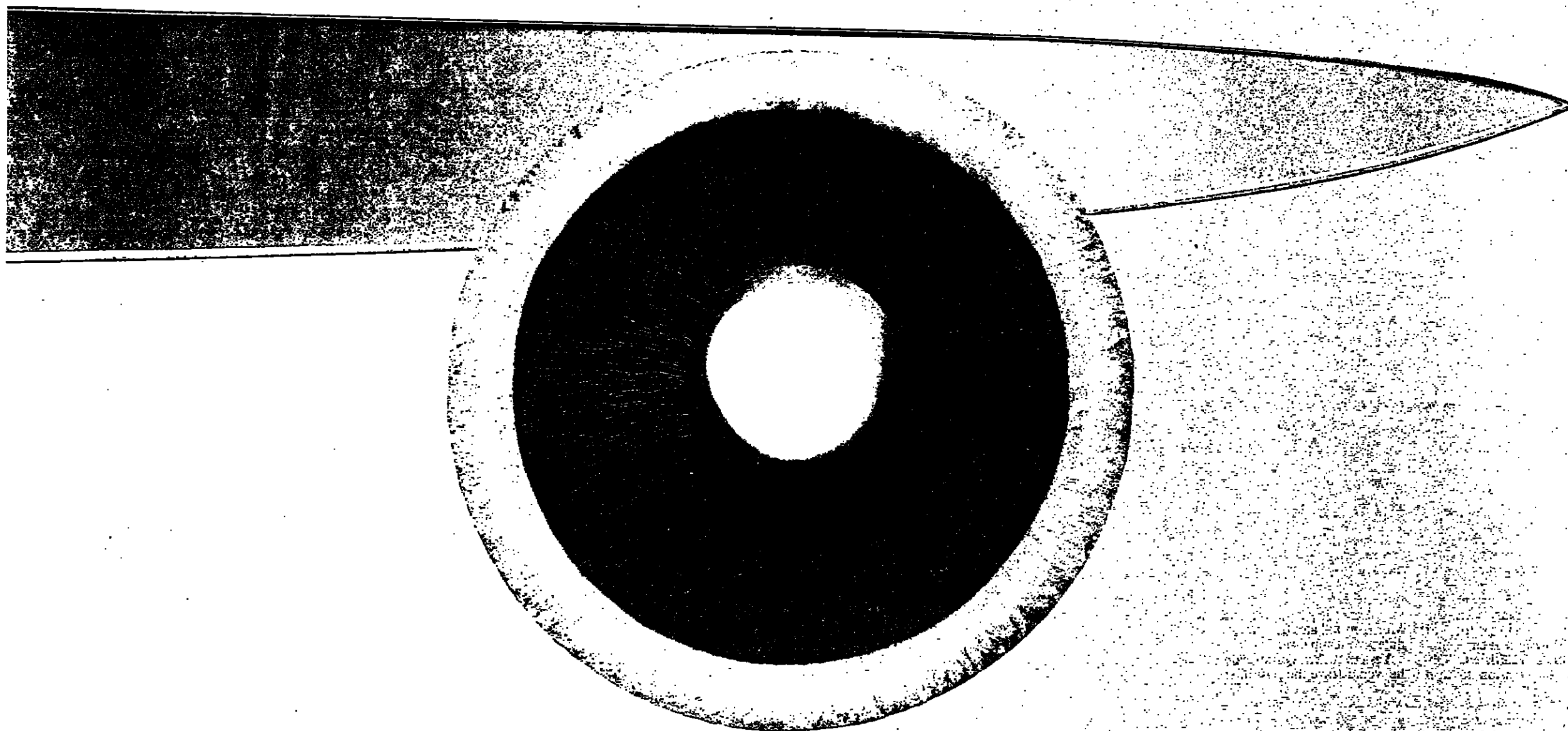
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New chief of ITV hints at peak time reshuffles

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RISK-TAKING and innovation in ITV schedules will not end in the newly competitive era, but current affairs programmes will survive in peak time only if they can bring in audiences above eight million, Andrew Quinn, the network's new chief executive, said yesterday.

Mr Quinn, Granada Television's chief executive, takes charge this autumn of a £500-million-a-year programme budget as the first single executive in ITV's 37-year history to run a new centralised commissioning and scheduling system. He was ITV's original choice for the £230,000-a-year job last February and his appointment marks the end of a six-month search. Any further delay would have jeopardised ITV's output next autumn as programmes could not have been commissioned in time.

Yesterday Mr Quinn said such current affairs programmes as *World in Action* would be better marketed to attract higher audiences to keep their place in the schedule, but there was no question of ITV abandoning a diverse and broad range of "British-made" programming, he said. "It would be foolish to disrupt viewers' relationship with ITV, but it is a more commercial enterprise and programmes are going to hold their own in the schedule."

He would not rule out moving *News at Ten* to a 10.30 or 11pm slot to clear peak time schedules for popular drama and blockbuster films. Independent Television Commission regulations require an ITN bulletin in peak time, but Mr Quinn said: "There's no reason why peak time has to end at 10.30pm; to require that it does becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Mr Quinn, 55, rejected the post last February after the enforced resignation of David Plowright as chairman of Granada Television. "Obviously my decision to turn the job down originally was related to the trauma at Granada at the time. But Granada is now back on track," he said.

He agreed to take the job on a three-year contract after David Arctus, managing director of EMAP, turned it down two weeks ago and headhunters, hired by Mr Quinn as chairman of the

official search party, failed to find any other suitable candidate. The headhunters will still be paid a sum thought to be at least £100,000. Mr Quinn's own package, including pension and benefits, is more than £400,000 a year.

Mr Quinn's appointment was warmly welcomed, with broadcasters and independent producers praising him for his management skills, strategic thinking and sympathy for programme-makers.

Greg Dyke, chief executive of LWT, said: "Andrew is exactly the right person for ITV to take us into a new era." Sir Paul Fox, former managing director of BBC Television, said: "Overnight ITV has gained a lot of credibility."

Mr Quinn's first task as chief executive will be to hire the network director, who will take day-to-day responsibility for commissioning and scheduling. A tier of commissioning editors, marketing executives and publicity staff operating on a budget of no more than £6 million a year will be in place by December, he said.

Mr Quinn's appointment has effectively dashed the chances of Steve Morrison, Granada's director of programmes, being hired as network director. ITV executives would object to such a "Granada axis". Names in the hat now include David Elstein, Thames' director of programmes, Marcus Plantin, LWT's director of programmes, and Mr Denton, a former director of programmes at Central Television.

There was intense speculation at Granada last night as to who will replace Mr Quinn. He is thought to favour Malcolm Wall, Granada's head of sales. But Mr Morrison will also be a candidate for the top Granada job.

Yesterday Mr Quinn said he would leave the post after three years because ITV would then need a man with different talents. As managing director of Granada, he helped to put together the company's successful £9 million bid to retain its franchise, and received a £70,000 bonus plus £192,500 in share options in a phased "success payment" stretching until 1995.



Behind the lens: Andrew Quinn is to become ITV's first chief executive. He will take up office in the autumn and says he hopes to give the network's millions of viewers a strong schedule of British-made programmes

Man in the news

Private boss with a 20m audience

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK

A MAN who has never made a programme and is usually too busy to watch television became one of British broadcasting's biggest impresarios yesterday. As ITV's new chief executive, Andrew Quinn will have more influence over what 20 million viewers watch each night than the bosses of any of the 15 regional ITV companies.

An intensely private man, Mr Quinn has none of the charisma of Michael Grade, the Channel 4 chief executive. Neither does he have the tough-talking bravado of Greg Dyke, the LWT chief executive, or the matinee-idol suaveness of Richard Dunn, the chief executive of Thames.

During his 28-year career at Granada Television, where he worked as a personnel officer and rose to become chief executive in February after the enforced departure of David Plowright, Mr Quinn has always shunned the limelight. Mr Dyke said yesterday: "He never talks to the

press: what will all of you do?"

Mr Quinn, 55, is described by other television executives as a brilliant manager and behind-the-scenes negotiator, with an astute grasp of the industry's politics. He is also said to care deeply about programme quality.

While he has no direct experience at the creative end of the business, he has an empathy with programme-makers gleaned from what he called yesterday "the Granada culture".

Recently remarried to his wife, Janet, a former civil servant, he said that he was often too busy to watch much television at home. His hobbies are fly-fishing, golfing and periodic escapes to a cottage in Provence.

But when it does come to television, he says his taste is "eclectic" — stretching from good drama and situation comedies to the news. He favours a strong schedule of British-made programmes for ITV.

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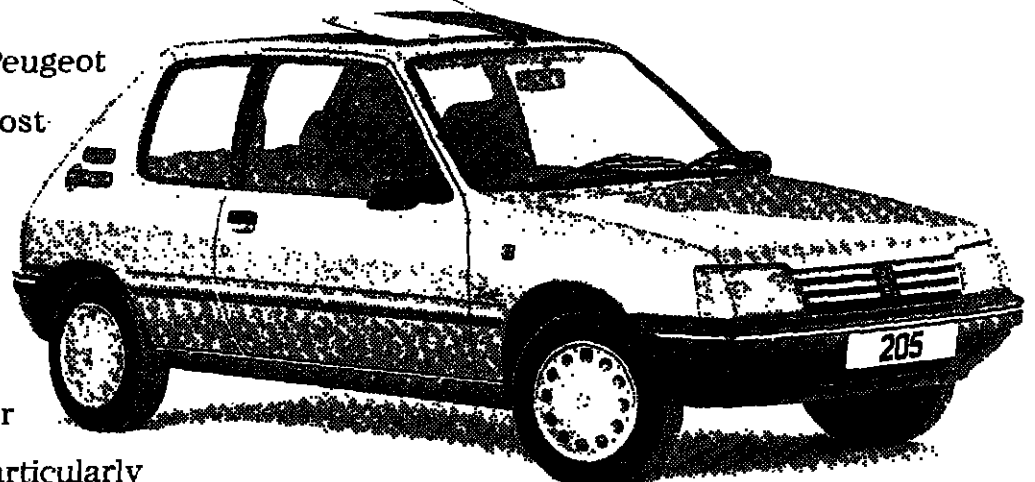
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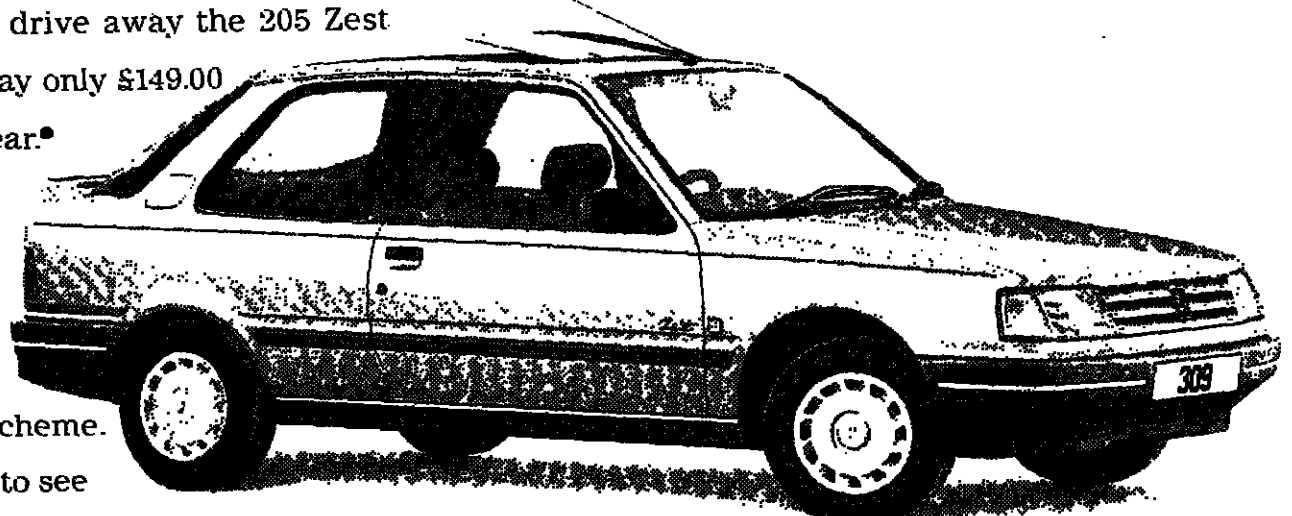
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NEWS IN BRIEF

£1m paid for silver treasure

The British Museum has spent £1 million on an Elizabethan silver dinner service reputedly made from silver captured from Spanish Armada treasure ships (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

The 26 dishes are believed to be the earliest set of English dining silver to survive and are decorated with gilded rims engraved with the arms of Christopher Harris of Radford in Devon.

The "Armada Service" is thought to have been hidden from parliamentarians during the English civil war.

Ship launched

HMS *Bridport*, a £30-million minehunter, one of the most advanced in the world, was launched yesterday. The ship is the fifth Sandown-class minehunter built by Vosper Thornycroft at Southampton.

BA staff strike

More than 2,500 British Airways short-haul cabin staff have been called out on a 24-hour strike next Tuesday in protest over plans to cut their wages by up to £2,000 a year.

Charity gains

John Cleese, the actor, is giving £25,000 libel damages received from *The Sun* to the Fulbright Foundation, a new charity that gives scholarships to British screenwriters. The paper made offensive allegations, later withdrawn.

Army advances

General Eva Burrows of the Salvation Army has ordered an evangelical advance into Russia, where the organisation has recently returned after an enforced absence of 70 years.

Women in church gain ally

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR churchman has asked worshippers to support bishops who illegally ordain women if the Church of England does not vote to allow women to become priests.

Canon Rex Davis, sub-dean of Lincoln, has been criticised by the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, the dean, Canon Davis, in his chapter's newsletter, this week outlines options if the General Synod fails to change the law in November.

Senior clergy at Lincoln Cathedral all support the ordination of women, but the dean is angry because Canon Davis appears to be in favour of breaking canon law. Proposals to change church law appear likely to fail to achieve the two-thirds majority needed in all three synod houses of laity, clergy and bishops. Bishops who ordain women priests will be committing a canonical offence and could be brought before church courts. Canon Davis says in his newsletter that, as financial provision will be made for priests who feel they must resign if the legislation is passed, provision should be made for clergy who feel they must resign if it fails. Another option would be for male clergy to function as deacons, as women do, and decline to celebrate communion.

The third, he says, is "to give massive support to any bishop who decides to ordain women to the priesthood". He calls on all supporters of ordination of women to join the Movement for the Ordination of Women.

Dr Jackson, writing in today's *Church of England Newspaper*, says: "Canon Davis is inciting ecclesiastical disorder."

Peace returns to a Welsh beauty spot as police and farmers count the cost of a 'rave'

Hippy convoy decamps in a puff of smoke

By PETER VICTOR

WHEEZING asthmatically and trailing white smoke, the last vanload of New Age travellers rattled off Kerry Hill in Powys, Mid Wales, yesterday at 11.23am.

Police pronounced the exodus a modest success with no arrests or violence. Even the Farmers' Union of Wales admitted that surprisingly little damage was apparent. It plans to hold a meeting to discuss ways to prevent any recurrence of the illegal festival last weekend when 10,000 people and hundreds of vehicles descended on farmer Stanley Pugh's fields. Despite all-night "raves", drug-taking, unsavoury toilet rituals and the savaging of sheep, the fields look remarkably unscathed.

The travellers had piled most of their rubbish into yellow skips provided by the local authorities. The rest was stacked up and burned. Mr

Pugh was not as happy as his union or the police and yesterday called for farmers to press the government for changes in the law, allowing swifter police action to evict hippies and travellers.

He said the damage and traffic caused by the travellers should have been prevented by police from the outset. "I was ordered by a hippy to allow his horses to graze on my land. A carload of them threatened to beat me up if I did not."

He said the police were more concerned with keeping roads clear than keeping the travellers out. The hippies had dug holes in the ground with spades because there were no toilets.

"Why do they bring all these dogs with them? Why didn't the RSPCA come out to see what was happening with all the injured and dead animals [sheep]? They are al-



Mind how you go: police keep a watchful eye on the last of the New Age travellers leaving Kerry Hill. Some of their ill-maintained vehicles had been reluctant to start

ways coming out to check if the sheep are being hurt because the jump from the back of the Land-Rover is too high."

By mid-morning yesterday only half a dozen vehicles remained. With little money for fuel and a police deadline set for midday, the only ones to remain were those who needed time to coax life out of vehicles that had been limp-

ing along, unserved, for too long. Music by the heavy rock group Motorhead blared as final adjustments were made. The song *Stay Clean* was probably a reference to drugs rather than soap and water.

Police watched as the owner of the final vehicle, a Mercedes van, tinkered with it, trying to make it start. A puff of white smoke was greeted with the cry: "They've elected

a new Pope!" While this was going on a young woman, flanked by at least six dogs, went on litter patrol, shoving her finds into a black binliner before dumping them into a skip. This done, and the site looking more respectable than many picnic areas, she climbed into one of the last vehicles and left.

Elifon Pritchard, assistant chief constable of Dyfed Pow-

ys police, said he regarded the move as a successful damage limitation exercise. "We kept the peace, no arrests were made. Our sympathies go out, of course, to Mr Pugh. The lives of the people of this area have been disrupted but we have managed to keep that disruption to a minimum."

Gwilym Humphreys, executive officer of the farmers'

union, said he was glad to see the travellers leave without the need for arrests. "I am surprised to see the condition of the field here today. We will now contact Mr Pugh and estimate what is the eventual cost that will have to be borne."

"At least 40 sheep from here and neighbouring farms have been killed and mauled. If we have to plough up this field and resow it, we are looking at something in the region of an extra £10,000 to £15,000." Mr Pritchard said the total cost of the police operation had not yet been calculated.

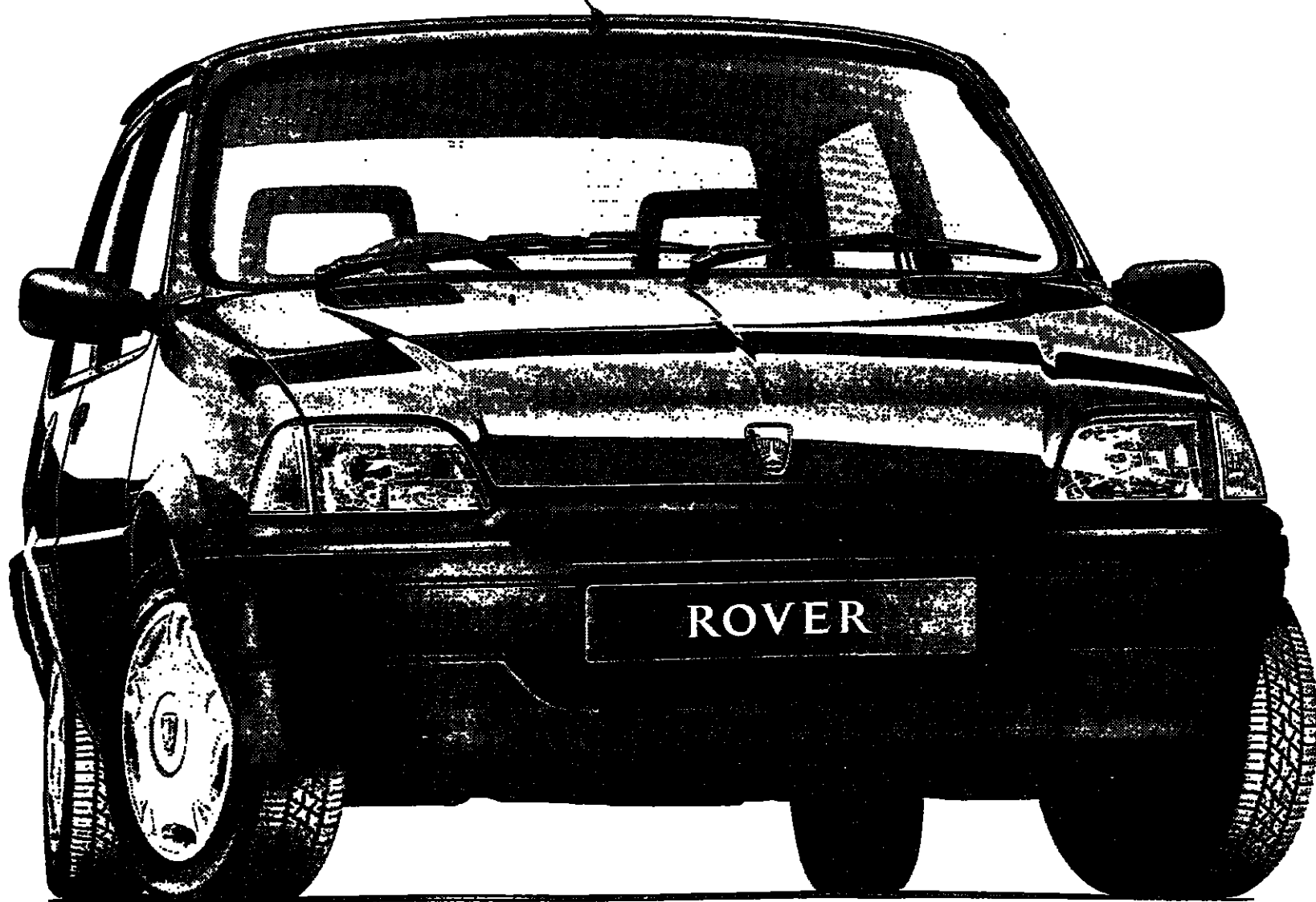
One traveller, who declined to give his name, said he had

no idea where he was going: "I've been travelling all my life. I prefer to live like this. In the winter we just do the same thing. We have warm burners in the vans, it's warmer than a house."

As one police officer said, although the travellers have a *laissez faire* attitude, they have a code of conduct. Local authority water tanks had been gratefully received. One young man had been expelled from the encampment for ladelling out water with an implement that had previously been used for shovelling something unspeakable.

Letters, page 13

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Buyers beware in high-radon areas

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE buying homes in Northamptonshire, Derbyshire and Somerset should check with their surveyor whether the property they want is contaminated with radon, a gas believed to cause lung cancer, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said yesterday.

The institution was reacting to reports this week that tens of thousands of homes in the three counties may be contaminated with the naturally occurring radioactive gas. Estate agents are under no legal obligation to tell buyers whether a home has radon levels above recommended safety levels.

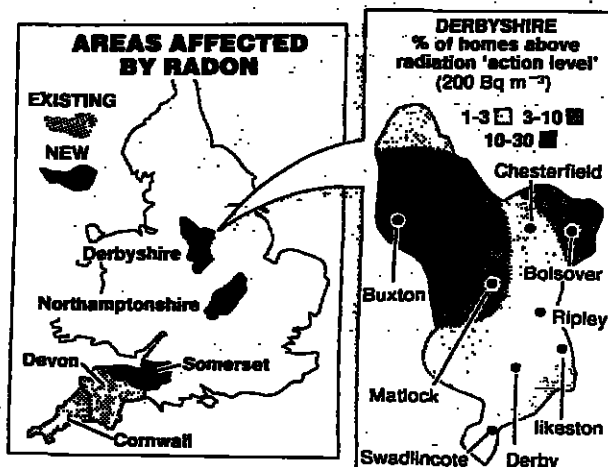
Richard Blacklee, a Northamptonshire surveyor and the institution's spokesman on radon, said: "Buyers should rely on their surveyors to warn them to check whether a house has dangerous radon levels."

Most houses have not been tested for radon. The test involves several months of monitoring. In theory, the buyer could ask the seller to have a test carried out, but the practicalities are such that most do not.

Homeowners can install pumps or fans to remove the gas, at a cost of between £500 and £2,000. An alternative could be to seal the gas beneath the floor.

"The existence of radon does not hold up sales, but it could mean that a couple of thousand pounds is knocked off the price," Mr Blacklee said. "People have been living with this for generations."

David Goldsworthy, of the National Association of Estate Agents, said it was unlikely that there would be any change in the law to force agents to disclose to buyers the existence of dangerous radon levels.



Yorkshire fights to recapture Ridings

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE will launch a campaign tomorrow to win back the Ridings of Yorkshire, lost in the local council reforms of the 1970s. At 11.17am, Yorkshiremen are being urged to declaim the "Yorkshire Declaration", pledging loyalty to the county's boundaries laid down in 876 by the Vikings.

Yorkshire's three Ridings vanished from maps after the 1972 Local Government Act, to be replaced by metropolitan counties of West and South Yorkshire, a shire county of North Yorkshire and the much-reviled Humberside.

The Yorkshire Ridings Society, which has been fighting ever since to restore the county's traditional boundaries, declared August 1 as Yorkshire day 17 years ago, but this year's celebrations have added point. In September, the new Local Government Commission, chaired by Sir John Banham, will arrive in Yorkshire to decide the future shape of the county.

Howard Walker, the society's chairman, has never acknowledged the passing of the Ridings. "It is not a

question of restoring the Ridings, they have never gone away. The geographical structure of Yorkshire has never changed. All that happened was that a new structure of local government was introduced. That is a very different matter."

The campaign for the Ridings has been given new heart by the inclusion in the commission's guidelines of powers to create "non-administrative counties" to reflect local loyalties.

Trevor Pearson, chairman of the Campaign for Real Yorkshire, which has collected 30,000 signatures on a petition it will present to the commission, wants the restoration of the Ridings as a prerequisite to reform. "It was as if a blanket was thrown across the whole country in 1972. Yorkshire is still there and we want it back."

The campaigners, who call themselves Yorkshire Tykes, also want the return of parts of Yorkshire transferred to other counties in 1974. Groups in the Ribbles Valley, now in Lancashire, are demanding their return to West Riding.

Smith chooses team from left and right

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith drew on talent from the left and right of the Labour party yesterday as he completed a reshuffle of his front bench that saw several middle-ranking figures, notably Mark Fisher, the arts spokesman, and Clive Soley, the housing spokesman, returning to the backbenches.

The most eye-catching promotion was to Dawn Primarolo, MP for Bristol South, who moves straight from the backbench ranks to become number two in the team of health spokesmen headed by David Blunkett.

Ms Primarolo, who hails from the party's far left and is a member of the Campaign Group, has long been seen as

due for recognition, and her appointment was cited as evidence that Mr Smith's first priority is ability rather than precise political affiliations.

Allies said the reshuffle underlined Mr Smith's authority. He also brought back into the fold former rebels such as Clare Short, who now becomes number two in the environmental protection team, and Maria Fyfe, who resigned during the Gulf war and now goes to the Scottish team. Tony Banks, who also resigned at that time, has been brought back as a special spokesman on London affairs, working with both the environment and transport teams. From the centre-right

there is a return for Stuart Bell, who joins the trade and industry team.

Around a dozen front-benchers have moved to the backbenches, some at their own request. Among those leaving are Stuart Randall, Donald Anderson, a senior foreign affairs spokesman, John Maxton, Jim Marshall, Mr Fisher, Mr Soley, Joan Lester, Alf Morris, Jeremy Bray and Jo Richardson, who dealt with women's issues.

Although he clashed with Mr Smith before the election on Labour's policy on local authority housing receipts, Mr Soley is understood to have let it be known that he wanted to stand down.

Promotions go to George Foulkes, Henry McLeish, Alistair Darling, Nick Brown and Jeffrey Rooker. There are a record 13 women. New women members include Kate Hoey (Vauxhall), who joins the team dealing with the citizen's charter and women, and Ulin Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme), who moves from the whip's office to be a social security spokeswoman.

Leader of Commons and campaign co-ordinator:
Treasury and economic affairs:
Home affairs:

Trade and industry:

Employment:

Transport:

National heritage:

Chief secretary to the Treasury:

Citizen's charter and women:

Environmental protection:

Wales:

Education:

Foreign & Commonwealth affairs:

Development and co-operation:

Social security:

Health:

Environment (local government):

Scotland:

Defence, disarmament and arms control:

Food, agriculture and rural affairs:

Northern Ireland:

Law officers:

Lord Chancellor's department:

Disabled people's rights:

Margaret Beckett (deputy leader)

Nick Brown

Gordon Brown, Alistair Darling, Andrew Smith, Nick Brown

Tony Blair, Joan Ruddock, Alan Michael, Graham Allen

Robin Cook, Martin O'Neill, Derek Fatchett, Nigel Griffiths, Stuart Bell, Jim Cousins

Frank Dobson, Tony Lloyd, Joyce Quin, Sam Galbraith

John Prescott, Peter Snape, Joan Walley, Tony Banks

Bryan Gould, Robin Corbett, Tom Pendry

Harriet Harman

Marjorie Mowlem, Brian Wilson, Lewis Moonie, Kate Hoey

Chris Smith, Clare Short

Ann Chwyd, Paul Murphy, Rhodri Morgan

Ann Taylor, Jeff Rooker, Win Griffiths, Tony Lloyd

Jack Cunningham, George Robertson, Alan Rogers, Bruce Grocott

Michael Meecher, Tony Worthington

Donald Dewar, Keith Bradley, Ulin Golding

David Blunkett, Dawn Primarolo, David Hinchcliffe, Ian McCartney

Jack Straw, John Birtle, Doug Henderson, Keith Vaz, Peter Pike, Tony Banks

Tom Clarke, Henry McLeish, John McFall, Maria Fyfe

David Clark, George Foulkes, John Reid, Eric Marlowe

Ron Davies, Elliot Morley, Dale Campbell-Savours

Kevin McNamara, Roger Stott, Bill O'Brien

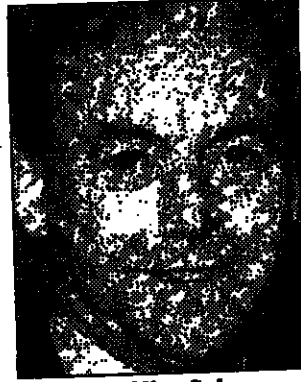
John Morris, John Fraser

Paul Boateng

Barry Sheerman



In: Dawn Primarolo



Out: Clive Soley

Pledges on jobs 'broken'

BY JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government was accused yesterday of breaking its pledges and betraying unemployed people by failing to provide the number of training places it had promised.

As part of its summer campaign on the economy, Labour released figures showing that ministers had failed to honour promises to provide work experience through the employment action programme for 30,000 people by March this year. The figures for May, two months after the target date, were 19,772, a shortfall of more than 10,000, according to Labour.

The employment department said employment action was one of many options to help unemployed people back to work. It said 30,000 places were now available on the employment action scheme, and 23,000 of these were currently filled. "Since the initiative was introduced last October it has given help to 37,000 people. Training and Enterprise Councils have rightly taken time to create worthwhile opportunities," a spokeswoman said.

During a visit to a south London computer training centre Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, Harriet Harman, shadow Treasury secretary, and Frank Dobson, employment spokesman, said that in some regions the shortfall was over 50 per cent.

The recession had gone on too long and was too deep for people to tolerate the government's drift in policy, they said. Labour was calling for immediate action on housing to help the property and construction markets, and action to boost investment.

Peter Riddell, page 12

Council capping backfires

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

CAPPING council budgets has led to higher spending by councils, the reverse of the effect intended by ministers, according to a new study.

Research by Tony Travers of the London School of Economics, an authority on local government finance, shows that council spending rose by more than inflation in each of the seven years since capping was introduced.

Increases in council spending would be reduced if the government abolished capping at once, he says in the *Local Government Chronicle*. He blames low-spending, mostly Tory, councils in the South-East for increasing spending.

In some cases councils have pushed up spending by more than twice the rate of inflation, fearing that unless they take up all their permitted spending they will have their target cut when the council tax is introduced in April.

Financial year	Total spending £bn	Real terms increase %
1979-80	12.9	2.0
1980-81	15.7	1.7
1981-82	17.5	1.7
1982-83	18.0	1.7
1983-84	20.2	1.7
1984-85	21.6†	1.5
1985-86	22.2	1.3
1986-87	24.1	5.0
1987-88	26.3	3.3
1988-89	28.3†	0.4
1989-90	30.6	4.1
1990-91	36.5*	2.7
1991-92	41.3	4.5
1992-93	44.4*	2.8

*Budgeted figure
†New definition of spending introduced
‡Less £200m (London Transport with-
drawn from council control)
*Less £270m (polytechnic costs
transferred to Whitehall)
Source: Tony Travers, LSE.



Wet look: Michael Howard, the environment secretary, sips frugally from a glass of water at yesterday's launch of the government's consultation document, Using Water Wisely. Full story, page 16

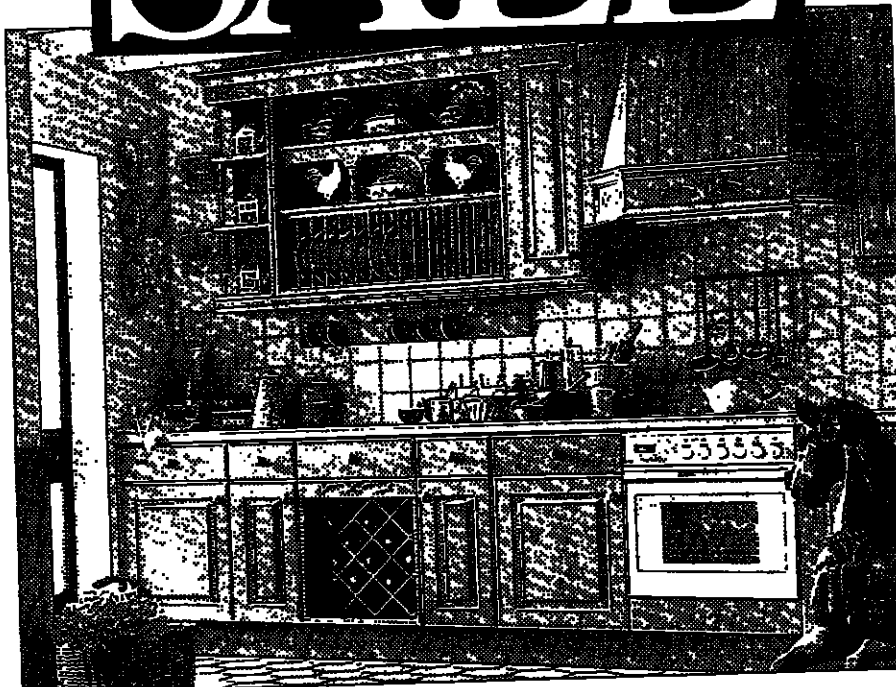
Scottish Tories recruit

THE Scottish Conservative party yesterday began a new membership drive as part of a campaign for more electoral gains at local council level, in the European elections and at the next general election (Kerry Gill writes).

The Scottish Tories, who enjoyed a modest success in April in spite of predictions that they would be virtually wiped off the map, are determined not to be seen as complacent, and aim to create a "fighting machine" capable of being quickly wheeled into action. The first move came yesterday with the appointment of three new party officers, perhaps the most interesting of them being Annabel Goldie, who will have responsibility for women's affairs and youth.

Constituencies will be urged to recruit more members, particularly among women and young people. Lord Sanderson, the Scottish party chairman, admitted that there were too few young people in the party and that he saw the universities as providing many more members.

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Or is it just raucous?

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South Africa sends in troops to stabilise troubled townships

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's forces of law and order have decided to clamp down on the violently anarchic townships in the Vaal triangle south of here and in other black areas on the Witwatersrand. About 5,000 police and soldiers have been sent to 14 townships in what Herries Kriel, the law and order minister, called "stabilisation operations designed to restore peace and essential services to areas affected by unrest."

The African National Congress immediately called it "unjustified" and said that it was aimed at covering the black inhabitants prior to the week of intensified mass action that is due to begin on Monday. Carl Niehaus, speaking for the ANC, said that it was "designed to create an atmosphere of tension, allowing the police to get involved in repressive activity". Mr Kriel, speaking in Soweto, the largest black township, compared the operation with similar, smaller exercises recently in Phola Park, a squatter camp near Alberton, and Alexandra, in northeast Johannesburg. Intensified policing there had proved so successful that local authorities could render essential services once again. The crime rate had also fallen.

Describing it as a "peace offensive", Mr Kriel added: "The restoration of basic services is essential for our fellow citizens living in these areas to keep their self respect and have their living standards restored and, hopefully, improved."

Australia turns down gang offer

Tokyo: An attempt by the Australian government to sell a valuable building site in the Japanese city of Kobe has run into difficulties after a prospective buyer turned out to be a front for the yakuza.

Kobe officials blocked the deal after identifying the bidder, an import car dealership, as a front for Yamaguchi-gumi — Japan's biggest gang. "We had no idea the firm was connected to the Yamaguchi-gumi," an Australian embassy official said yesterday, after details of the deal hit Japanese newspapers. He said the embassy scrapped the deal in March at the request of the Kobe regional government.

"We've now asked the governor there to help find us a buyer," he said. Canberra is asking £9.3 million for the property, bought in the 1970s as a residence for its consular staff. Dwindling staff numbers, combined with rising property prices, encouraged Canberra to put up the site for sale. (Reuters)

Emperor set to visit China



Tokyo: Emperor Akihito of Japan, above, looks set to make a long-awaited visit to China this year after Shin Kane-maru, the vice-president of the ruling Liberal Democrats, said he would build party consensus for the visit. (Reuters)

Bribe alleged

Seoul: South Korea's main opposition party claims the government plans to award a huge railway project to Japan in exchange for about a £270 million kickback. (AP)

Youths riot

Lome: Togolese police fired in the air and used tear gas to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing youths protesting in the capital at the murder of Tawo Amvran, a prominent opposition leader. (AFP)

Thieves to die

Peking: Two men who stole centuries-old cultural relics from museums and smuggled them out of China have been sentenced to death, the People's Daily said. (AP)

proved. General Johan van der Merwe, the police commissioner, addressing his troops before they moved off into the townships, pointed out that the eyes of the world were now on the police, and their every act would be scrutinised publicly. "Your task must at all times be approached in the right spirit," he said, "with impartiality, the necessary restraint and due regard for human dignity."

At the same time, a task force to give immediate attention to the resumption of the services, such as water, sewerage and health, has been agreed between the Vaal Civic Association, the Transvaal provincial administration and other officials.

The difficulty of the task that lies ahead of the security forces was apparent immediately when the badly burnt bodies of two men were found in the streets of Boipatong yesterday. It was suggested by the police that the two had been murdered elsewhere but dumped and burnt in the streets of the little township, scene of the mass killings six weeks ago that led to the breaking off of constitutional negotiations.

But even Boipatong was peaceful enough for a fleeting visit this week by Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special representative, who is coming to the end of his fact-finding mission here. He called on President de Klerk in Pretoria yesterday to discuss with him the proposals that he would be taking back to New York at the end of this week. Informal sources here suggest that he is likely to propose a modest observer mission to reinforce existing peace structures.

He has given no indication of what he will report to Dr Boutsos Boutsos Ghali, the UN secretary-general, and diplomats here have said that he is constrained by the need to be impartial between the various parties. The ANC has

— it is reported from New York — asked the Dr Boutsos Ghali to send an immediate observer mission to oversee the progress of next week's mass action, which is due to start with a two-day general strike on Monday. Already there are the signs of cracks appearing in the liberation movement's alliance, with the Pan-Africanist Congress threatening to withdraw its support because the mass action is aimed at restarting the negotiations at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa.

Indeed, for the first time since Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, broke off negotiations with the South African government, a delegation from his movement has sat down with officials and ministers and held discussions. The talks, which were about the release of remaining political prisoners, were one of the first fruits of Mr Vance's mission.

Mr Vance, whose mission ends today, "facilitated contact between the ANC and the government", according to Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC's secretary-general. The two sides met on Tuesday, and Mr Ramaphosa said last night that he had expected the prisoners would be released before Mr Vance left. Another meeting with the government has been scheduled. Mr Ramaphosa said that they had expected to receive a letter on the subject from Kobie Coetsee, the justice minister, which had not arrived.

Peenza now speaks Eugene Terre-Blanche, leader of South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement has been declared persona non grata in Namibia (Ray Kennedy writes).

He visited the country last week and said on local television that parts of it and South Africa should be set aside exclusively for whites.

Neo-Nazi terror, page 3

Police kill Sikh separatist leader

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

GURJANT Singh Budhsingh, one of Punjab's most wanted men, was killed in exchanges with security forces yesterday. Police claimed that he was responsible for hundreds of murders in a six-year terrorist career.

He was shot after security forces received a tip-off that he was hiding in a house in the city of Ludhiana. Ten other suspected terrorists were also killed in the fight, and several others were arrested. They were under interrogation last night, a process that often involves torture, according to human rights groups.

His death is an important victory in the fight against separatist gunmen in one of the most violent areas of India. Terrorists continue to claim scores of victims every week, and routinely wipe out entire families of policemen and suspected police informers.

The security forces, who rarely bother taking anybody to trial, also kill numerous people. Many are undoubtedly innocent, but there is no recourse for the victims' families. The judicial system is generally regarded as a farce.

Police said that Budhsingh was killed when attempting to run from the house. They accused him of kidnapping a Romanian diplomat last year and of murdering

several senior police officers and state government officials. He was said to have masterminded the killing of 40 bus passengers at Lalru and the deaths of 150 passengers in two trains in Ludhiana. He was believed to have robbed the Punjab National Bank of 50 million rupees (£930,000) at Ludhiana.

Security forces had offered a reward of four million rupees for information leading to the capture of Budhsingh, who headed the Khalistan Liberation Force, one of the main terrorist groups fighting for an independent Punjab called Khalistan, or "land of the pure". The liberation force is one of the four main Sikh separatist groups and is believed to have about 300 "hardcore" members. He was also one of five members of the Panthic Committee, which coordinates Sikh separatist activities.

Police have had a string of successes against terrorist groups in recent months, although the gunmen clearly retain the initiative. The son of a state minister was shot dead this week and the death toll shows no sign of abating. Divisions among various terrorist organisations make it all but impossible for the government to initiate peace negotiations.

Pimps 'shoot sick prostitutes'

FROM REUTERS IN BANGKOK

SWISS child rights activists said yesterday they had evidence that Burmese teenage girls forced into prostitution in Thailand are brutally beaten and sometimes killed by pimps if they have the virus causing AIDS.

The Geneva-based Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud, which runs a shelter for child prostitutes in Thailand, began an investigation into brothels on the Thai-Burma border after receiving pleas for help from young women forced into prostitution there. It hired Philip Nicolet, of the International Committee for the Dignity of Children, who visited several prison-like brothels in the Thai port of Ranong near the border in May.

"The conditions I saw were absolutely atrocious. I could not believe it was true. It was

clear that many of the women had been beaten. They looked like slaves. Many of them were as skinny as Ethiopian girls," Mr Nicolet said. He said that he arranged to take one young woman out of a brothel to a hotel in the town and interviewed her for six hours using drawings and sign language. "When she found out what I wanted she embraced me and immediately burst into tears."

Mr Nicolet said the girl told him that she was beaten and underfed and that women were taken away and shot by the pimps when they were sick, or when there was no further use for them. He said her story was backed by reports from local Thai fishermen, who frequent the brothels, and letters that the association had received earlier from other women.

"I am not able to say that I

Lineker awaits the sound of one hand clapping

England's football diplomat may be in for a culture shock in Japan, writes Joanna Pitman from Nagoya



New kid on the block: Lineker giving the thumbs up on his arrival in Nagoya yesterday where his team has lined up a selection of houses for him to view

Many Japanese still confuse Gary Lineker with Tom Cruise today, but they will not be doing so for long. Lineker arrived in Japan yesterday for a three-day visit to meet the managers and the players who will be his team mates when he kicks off next February with the Toyota Motor-backed Grampus Eight team.

Signed for a reported £3 million for two years, Lineker is to be the new Japanese league's showpiece player. Ryuzo Hiraki, Grampus' team manager said: "He is a very, very excellent striker and we are expecting very excellent play next February. We hope he will make soccer very popular here."

British football's diplomat, already known in Japan as "our new ace striker", hopes so, too. But having stepped off a 13-hour flight from London into the 40°C heat of Nagoya, the industrial city southwest of Tokyo where he and his family will live, he looked a trifle overwhelmed. "It is going to be a great adventure, a great challenge

to experience such a different culture... we had a fabulous experience in Barcelona and I am looking forward to this being just as exciting," he said. Lineker bravely says he

hopes to be able to speak some Japanese when he arrives next February, just as he learnt Spanish when he played for Barcelona. If he is serious, he will be sacrificing

hours of training in favour of pouring over the dictionary to master the minimum 2,000 Chinese characters necessary to read a newspaper in Japanese.

Barcelona may have been fabulous, but few foreigners would describe Nagoya as even reasonable. It is a sprawling and unforgiving city of monotonous concrete blocks; parks are rare, trees scarce and English-speakers distressingly thin on the ground.

The Japanese, being extremely solicitous of the Lineker family's welfare, have lined up a selection of houses for him to view this week, many of them with views on to the city's pride and joy, the central highway intersection. And with their characteristic attention to detail, the local press are already wondering how they should refer to him. "Gally, Gelly or Gyrrreec Rinekar?"

He said he did not mind, as long as they were polite, but he may be in for a surprise when he scores his first goal as the applause at sports events here, particularly at baseball games, is carefully rehearsed, choreographed and led by an "applause conductor" wearing white gloves.

With one eye on the "conductor" and the other on a pair of giant hands projected on to a video screen, spectators indulge in synchronised clapping. When a home run is scored, everyone leaps to their feet, unfurls a plastic umbrella and, jumping up and down, brandishes it in a kind of primeval broody dance. Lineker will be doing well if he manages to conceal his culture shock in Japan.

Collor hit by forgery claims

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

A SECRETARY'S tale of forged documents has damaged further the credibility of Fernando Collor de Mello, the Brazilian president, rocked the country's financial markets and stirred new calls for his impeachment by opposing political parties.

The new twist in the case Brazilians are calling Collor-gate came on Wednesday when the secretary of a wealthy São Paulo industrialist claimed that her employer, a friend of the president, helped to forge documents to show that the multimillion pound repairs Senhor Collor made on his home came from a loan from Uruguay, and not from Paulo Cesar Farias, his former campaign treasurer. Sandra Fernandes de Oliveira said that Alcides dos Santos Diniz recently hosted meetings of senior government aides and allegedly forged papers to document a \$5 million (£2.6 million) loan from Uruguay.

The claims added an explosive new element to the congressional enquiry which yesterday resumed its investigations into the dealings of Senhor Farias, who is suspected of influence peddling, taking millions of pounds in kickbacks on government contracts, committing bank fraud and bankrolling Senhor Collor's private expenses.

As news of the claims broke, the Brazilian stock market dropped by 9 per cent, while the price of gold and the black market dollar soared. Political opponents to Senhor Collor called meetings in Brasília to try to put pressure on the government's allies to push for the president's resignation.

Senhor Collor called the new allegations "absurd". However, Valdo Sarkis Halak, a lawyer working for Senhor Diniz, said that he was called on to "give legality" to the loan contract documents.

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Queen Margrethe went sight-seeing in the Latvian capital,

The multi-millionaire Donald

Rodney King, the black mo-

goubling as acting prime min-

ister, Tass news agency said.

Comrade Margot puts on brave face as she leaves socialist cradle



Moscow farewell: Margot Honecker arriving at the airport yesterday on her way to Santiago

WHILE her husband, the former leader of East Germany, was taken to a Berlin court to face manslaughter charges, Margot Honecker put on the bravest of faces yesterday and left Moscow for Chile, the country where they both longed to settle.

Dressed in a smart grey suit, the former education minister and dedicated communist resolutely refused to answer questions as photographers trailed her into the VIP lounge of Moscow airport. She was spotted kissing a woman friend goodbye, apparently the wife of Jaime Holger, a Chilean diplomat who accompanied her to the airport.

Frau Honecker is thought to have played a key role in

As Margot Honecker flew to Chile, Bonn prepared to put her husband on trial, write Bruce Clark from Moscow and Ian Murray from Bonn

negotiations over her husband's fate. It was her friendship with Irma Caceres de Almeida, the wife of Santiago's previous ambassador to Moscow that helped the fugitive couple to get asylum in the Chilean embassy compound.

One of the few signs of public solidarity for the Honeckers from the country that they revered as the cradle of socialism came from *Pravda*, the former Communist Party mouthpiece. "For-

give us, Erich Honecker," the paper declared in a commentary seething with bitterness. It described Herr Honecker as a "victim of treachery, political intrigue, and the immorality of his former friends and comrades, Gorbachev and Yeltsin". It added: "This will hardly be forgiven by history, but let the grapes of wrath fall on the politicians and not our people, who played no part in this dirty political game."

A Russian foreign ministry spokesman, meanwhile, emphasised that Herr Honecker had left his place of asylum "willingly" after Moscow and Santiago had agreed to inform him that he was an "unwanted guest". He added that Herr Honecker had "remained calm and reasonable" during Wednesday night's flight to Berlin.

After the diplomatic triumph of wrangling Herr Honecker out of his Chilean sanctuary in Moscow, Bonn is having to face up to the diplomatic embarrassment of putting on trial a man who was a guest of the state only five years ago. The former roof-repairer is now back in Berlin's Moabit prison, where he was interrogated by the

Nazis 27 years ago. New evidence suggests that as many as 350 people were killed while trying to escape to the West. However, the case threatens to prove a legal minefield.

Bonn politicians insist that Herr Honecker is being charged with criminal and not with political offences. However, the old communist leader has already raised a large question mark over his case by questioning the right of the Berlin court to try him for issuing orders that were legally correct in a state that was recognised by Germany.

The likelihood that, thanks to the Stasi secret police, Herr Honecker knows embarrassing facts about the lives of prominent German politi-

cians led to widespread speculation that Bonn actually connived with the former Soviet Union 17 months ago to spirit him out of an army hospital in the east to Moscow. Mikhail Gorbachev, then president, promised to protect him.

The German government nevertheless insisted that he must come back and stand trial. The imprisonment of East German border guards for obeying shoot-to-kill orders infuriated public opinion in the east, where the case was seen as proof that lower ranks were punished while the chiefs walked free.

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Anne McElvoy, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Europe shies away from military role with Bosnia convoys

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON AND ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA

EUROPE yesterday backed away from any commitment to send troops and support aircraft to protect land convoys taking food and medical aid to people trapped in Sarajevo and other Bosnian towns.

Despite aggressive noises from Washington this week, European governments can see no practical way of providing military back-up for a land corridor. Officials from the nine-nation Western European Union, meeting in Rome yesterday, discussed the principles, not the practicalities, of creating a land corridor.

The Americans have said they are prepared to supply air and naval assets provided the Europeans send in ground troops. However, it was clear from the WEU meeting that military support from Europe is still a long way off.

The officials were asked by

the WEU foreign ministers on July 10 to prepare plans for enforcing the UN trade embargo against Serbia and Montenegro and establishing humanitarian corridors. The officials had not been expected to come up with any firm recommendations. However, the doubts in European capitals over sending ground forces to support aid corridors were expressed. "We're not envisaging any large scale military protection of convoys," one diplomatic source said. The only option which seems to be gaining any support is an extension of the role of the UN protection force in Bosnia, under which light armoured vehicles would be provided at each end of the land convoys.

The UN is alarmed by the high cost of airlifting aid to Sarajevo and wants to secure land routes for aid convoys to get supplies to the city and other distressed areas in Bosnia. Attempts to send in regular convoys have been hampered by armed barricades and mined roads.

Michael Dewar of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said yesterday that to protect refugee sanctuaries from marauding Serb irregulars, troops would have to be prepared to fight. "You would need the political will to take on the Serb militias and that means getting knee-deep into a quagmire from which it would be difficult to extricate them. You would have to be prepared to see blood spilt."

Jonathan Eyal, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute, said: "Enclaves are the last thing we need. Safe havens would end up like Palestinian shantytowns [in the Israeli-occupied territories]," he said.

The principle of providing temporary admission for refugees from former Yugoslavia

was agreed yesterday by 38 nations meeting as the follow-up committee to the ministerial conference on provision of food, medicines and shelter. The principle has been advocated by the British government, which yesterday gave the first details of the Yugoslav peace conference to be held in London from August 26 to 28. Today Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the Foreign Office, will visit Lawrence Eagleburger, the American deputy Secretary of State, following Mr Hogg's talks yesterday with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, as part of the process of building a high profile for the conference.

British politicians yesterday criticised John Major for refusing to offer a sanctuary to more refugees. Adding to the pressure on the prime minister to change his policy, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, severely rebuked the government for insisting that refugees should be housed close to their homes when, he argued, their homes had become concentration camps. In a letter to Mr Major, Mr Ashdown accused him and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, of sitting on their hands.

Lord Owen warned the prime minister that when young children were dying in cattle trucks, the time had come to say enough is enough.

Both politicians rebuked Mr Major for not showing leadership over the fate of millions of people fleeing Yugoslavia while Britain holds the EC presidency.

Mr Ashdown asked the prime minister: "Surely the time has come to act? The Nato countries of Europe have the means, under UN auspices, to stop this slaughter and to prevent a wider international catastrophe. Why do you lack the will?"

Sarajevo women target snipers

Naima is 22. She was a textile designer, but has learnt a more violent trade. Adam LeBar met her in Sarajevo

WITH her tight, patterned mini-skirt, matching pink top, stylish spiky hair and painted nails, Naima looks like she should be discussing the year's summer fashion ranges over a cappuccino in Soho or St Tropez. A striking 22-year-old, the former textile designer is dressed to kill in more ways than one.

Naima fights in an elite counter-sniper unit, often operating behind Serb lines which in this vicious urban civil war snake from house to house. Together with her fellow soldiers, she flushes out the long-range snipers who daily pick off pedestrians and motorists on the streets of Sarajevo. Naima's task is to cut communications between the snipers and their bases.

"We have to defend Sarajevo or else we will all die," she said. "I felt I had to do something so I joined this unit. I can't say I like it because it's a terrible job but at least I feel good because I'm fighting back. The first time I picked up a gun I felt empty. It's against all my principles and the way I was brought up. If you are a normal person shooting at people cannot make you happy. It's an emotion mixed with madness and disappointment."

Naima joined the unit after a four-year-old girl was shot dead by a sniper in her neighbourhood. "In a way it was revenge, but it doesn't drive me crazy," she said. "I don't want all the enemy dead; I just want to stop this. I do get frightened when I am prepar-



Dressed to kill: a young woman armed with a Czechoslovak machine pistol on the Sarajevo front line where she heads a Bosnian special intelligence unit

ing myself for an operation, when I pack my things, put on my uniform and get into the car. Then I am scared but when I'm in action there is no time to be frightened, I feel fury and anger but no fear."

At first Naima's fellow soldiers were reluctant to regard her as a proper fighter but

soon realised she was serious. She is the only woman in her unit but her only special privilege is extra leave. Her husband is also a fighter. "He is very worried about me and he would like me to be home. But he respects my decision."

More and more women want to fight in the Bosnian

army said Memet, Naima's commander. "It's good to have her in the unit both because she is a fine soldier and she acts as a filter between the others," he said. "They cannot get too angry when she is there. She shows a lot of men sitting in basements that everybody has to fight."

Serbs in Croatia learnt to survive

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SRPSKE MORAVICE

Srpske Moravice is hard to find nowadays because its inhabitants took down the signs. Lying on the main road between Zagreb and the Adriatic sea, Croat soldiers would yell: "Serbs to Serbia" and "We're going to kill you all," as they drove through, often taking potshots at the signs. Everyone knew this was a Serb village because its name means "Serbian Moravice".

Its story encapsulates the situation of the Serbs who remain in Croat-controlled Croatia. Its people are nervous, keeping their heads down and hoping to cling on until better times. Of the 600,000 Serbs in Croatia before the war, more than a third have fled the republic, a third live in Serb-controlled enclaves and a third remain behind. Father Jelenko Stojanovic, the village's Orthodox priest, says his people live a life of fear and insecurity. "For the people of Srpske Moravice Yugoslavia was their church, their religion, their mother. Now they are like the survivors of a shipwreck in the middle of an ocean calling for help, but no-one hears them."

The war has driven more than two million people from their homes but, despite Father Stojanovic's anxieties, the most remarkable thing about his village is that it has escaped the war, most of its people have remained in their homes and both sides have avoided conflict. Srpske Moravice and a cluster of other nearby villages are home to some 6,000 Serbs. As war raged in Croatia the Yugoslav army handed out guns here but they were never used. Cut off from other Serb areas, the locals feared that if fighting started, they would be driven from the area, while the Croats feared that the crucial road to the coast would be cut.

Earlier this month, under the terms of a deal brokered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all arms were handed in. But, on the eve of the Croatian general elections the feeling of insecurity remains high. "Political life for Serbs is dead. Every night we are slandered on television. They say we are all bandits or loafers," says Father Stojanovic.

Human rights activists say that Serbs are losing their jobs because they are Serbs. That bureaucratic obstacles are put in the way of Serbs as they try to have their citizenship regularised and that the pro-Croat euphoria of the past two years has soured to a popular anti-Serb chauvinism. In the big towns many Serbs carry on life as before and many live without problems. However, many of them came to Croatia as Yugoslav army families. Thousands have left, but those still living in homes, now owned by the Croatian Army, are nervous about their future and some have been evicted. "Over the past year hundreds of people have disappeared," says Zarko Puhovski, a Croat human rights activist.

While some Serbs are known to have been murdered in cold blood, it is believed that many of those who disappeared were kidnapped by Croatian security forces, especially in towns along the frontline, and exchanged for prisoners and hostages held on the Serbian side. Since the ceasefire in January such tactics have declined. Across western Slavonia and other areas hundreds of houses once owned by Serbs have been dynamited to ensure that their refugee owners can never return. The government says that there has been no destruction policy; these houses were blown up by angry individuals.

Historian backs Yeltsin claim on PoWs

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

SOME of the Americans who were interned by the Red Army after being "liberated" from Nazi camps may still be alive and living in the former Soviet Union, a senior defence adviser to President Yeltsin said yesterday.

The statement was made in an article in *Izvestia* by General Dmitri Volkogonov, a distinguished military historian and co-chairman of the US-Russian commission that is investigating the fate of missing prisoners of war. It is the furthest any expert has gone towards substantiating a claim made by Mr Yeltsin last

month, in a speech to the US Congress, that American prisoners of war might still be alive in Russia.

At the time, the Russian president's comments caused some embarrassment to those with specialist knowledge of the subject. Many suggested that Mr Yeltsin had exaggerated the likelihood of finding American captives for political reasons. However, General Volkogonov said he and his American colleagues had come to their conclusion after digging into official archives "which until recently were most firmly sealed". Particu-

larly interesting documents had been found in the files of the KGB, he wrote.

The files showed a "significant group" of Americans were taken to Stalin's Soviet Union during and after the second world war as a result of "military activity, border changes, internment and other circumstances arising from the conflict". Among these were at least 39 who, despite being US passport-holders or of American birth, belonged to one of the "Soviet" ethnic groups — "Ukrainians, Belorussians, Lithuanians, Russians and so on".

Official documents showed that they had been pressed to abandon their American citizenship. Those who refused were condemned to between 15 and 25 years in prison camps and the majority of those who accepted were also sent to jail or camps, where they would have been registered as Soviet citizens.

Apparently referring to the second category, General Volkogonov wrote in *Izvestia*: "There is reason to believe that some of them are still alive and living at the present time on the territory of the former Soviet Union."

Scalfaro hits out over 'vendetta resignation'

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

GIULIANO Amato, the Italian prime minister, struggled to restore the credibility of his one-month-old government yesterday after the unexpected "vendetta resignation" of the foreign minister, Vincenzo Scotti.

Signor Amato arranged to address parliament last night to reassure deputies that he was in control of the country, which has already been buffeted by a series of spectacular Mafia murders, a political corruption scandal in

Milan, and the massive budget deficit. The lira lost ground yesterday against the mark and the dollar and the Milan stock exchange index fell in response to traders' worries about the cabinet crisis.

President Scalfaro lashed out at Signor Scotti for leaving the cabinet without warning on Wednesday night in what many commentators described as a vendetta planned by the former Christian Democrat prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, 74, who resigned after suffering a severe setback in the April general election.

Speaking in Genoa, the president said: "If partial or factional interests take the place of service of the people, it is a crime against the state." The head of state said the resignation of the foreign minister was "intolerable in a democratic regime of a homeland that is suffering from terrible plagues. This is a terribly difficult moment."

La Stampa newspaper described the departure of Signor Scotti as "the vendetta of Andreotti". The veteran Christian Democrat is believed to be furious at losing the race for the presidency in May and at subsequently being deprived of a chance to become foreign minister in the Amato government as a consolation prize.

Signor Amato has taken over the foreign minister's job in an interim capacity and is expected to announce a replacement for Signor Scotti by the end of the week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope takes a break from duty

Rome: The Pope, recovering from an operation to remove a benign intestinal tumour, has cancelled all private and public audiences until further notice. Joaquín Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman, said yesterday.

Vatican sources said the decision was an attempt to give the Pontiff, 72, time to rest. The suspension is expected to last all of October. Looking pale and thinner, he left hospital on Tuesday for his summer residence of Castelgandolfo, south of Rome.

The Pope has cancelled plans to visit Mexico, Nicaragua and Jamaica in October as part of a trip to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America. He will go ahead only with a visit to the Dominican Republic on October 12. (Reuters)

Ships destined for scrapheap

Moscow: Thirteen Russian nuclear submarine and two military ships will be dismantled and some parts and scraps will be sold for hard currency. Interfax news agency said.

The 15 vessels, including eight long-range nuclear submarines, five nuclear submarines, one anti-submarine ship and one guided missile ship, will be given to six shipbuilders in Russia and in the Baltic states to be dismantled. (AFP)

TV firm fined

Paris: The higher broadcasting council, France's independent broadcasting authority, fined the private television station TFI (€3.1 million) for not making enough French cultural programmes. (Reuters)

Ban overruled

Sofia: Bulgaria's constitutional court overturned a new law banning former Communist party officials and secret police agents taking senior positions in commercial banks. (Reuters)

Bungled raid

Grenoble: Two armed bank robbers committed suicide when they were surrounded by police after a bungled raid on a bank in this eastern French city of Grenoble. (Reuters)

Gays lured

Amsterdam: The state tourism bureau wants more American gays to visit Holland, claiming they have more money than most tourists. (AP)

Errant cyclist loses driving points in eyes of the law

If lorry drivers could bring France to a standstill, why not angry cyclists? The thought took shape this week in the minds of a million French amateurs of *la petite reine* (the little queen), as the conveyance has long been called, after an excess of zeal by the Paris police.

The bicycle affair began when Daniel Artaud, a computer worker now turned folk hero, was pedalling through the Left Bank of Paris on his new bicycle, which he bought "to get away from all the hassles of car driving". Stopped at a red light on the Boulevard St Germain, he noticed there was no traffic

and executed a quiet right turn, a routine action by French motorists. However, the manoeuvre did not go unnoticed by Officer 0905070, who demanded Mr Artaud's driving licence and notified him that he would lose two of the six points to which car drivers are entitled before being banned from the roads.

It was this new penalty system which sent the truck drivers into revolt a month ago. An incredulous M. Artaud assumed that the officer had lost touch with reality but on enquiry, the cyclist was told by police headquarters that this was no fantasy: the law applied to

anyone in charge of a vehicle. The media, now in hot, silly season pursuit, discovered that the infamous law was indeed vague on the type of vehicle and the Paris police were enjoying a field day snatching points from errant cyclists. Could you now lose your licence for a pedestrian offence wondered the daily *Libération*? Georges Sarre, the embattled transport minister, took two days before he ruled that the law was intended only for motor vehicles.

The ministry decreed that it also did not apply to pedestrians, skate-boarders or mothers pushing prams. But there is still hope for officer 0905070. The legal experts say the law can only be interpreted by the courts, not a mere minister.

There must be something about lexicography that breeds litigation. New York courts were bogged down recently with suits among dictionary-makers.

French publishers have caught the legal bug but their suits involve an even more intangible property: ownership of word "essential". The war of the dictionaries was launched last spring when Hachette announced that it was about to publish a big *Dictionnaire Essentiel*, a col-

our-illustrated semi-encyclopaedia. Some 120,000 volumes were on their way to the shops when Larousse, which long ago cornered the dictionary market, announced a forthcoming *Dictionnaire Essentiel du Français Contemporain*. Hachette smelled a rat and sued Larousse for "underhand competition", telling the court that Larousse had put out an *essentiel* at short notice merely to sabotage its rival's much bigger effort. Larousse sued back. On Tuesday, the commercial court said in a preliminary finding that Larousse had committed "commercial parasitism".

Foreign policy comes under fire

Conservative critics liken Bush to Carter

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT BUSH, beset by plunging opinion poll ratings and buffeted by Republican anger over his stumbling re-election campaign, is now suffering the final ignominy of having his handling of foreign policy being compared to that of Jimmy Carter.

Disgruntled right-wing conservatives who had been silent after Patrick Buchanan's challenge for the Republican presidential nomination failed, are turning against Bush again publicly. Richard Viguerie, an influential conservative, said yesterday: "The president should do the honorable thing: resign."

An indication of the unhappiness with his performance is a fresh crop of anti-Bush jokes. One goes: "What's the difference between John Gotti (the jailed Mafia leader) and George Bush? Answer: Gotti has at least one conviction."

The two presidents may soon have more in common than high unpopularity ratings, some jittery Republicans fear. They are asking whether President Bush will also succumb to what is becoming known in Washington as the I (for Iraq) factor, and, like Mr Carter, be finally pushed out of the Oval Office because of the taint of a Middle East pariah state.

Few would have predicted a year ago that President Bush's handling of foreign policy would be compared to Mr Carter's. Mr Bush's strength has always been in the diplomatic field. His sure-footed leadership of the anti-Iraq coalition after the invasion of

Kuwait was a triumph that most people assumed would automatically lead to his re-election. But as Democratic claims of "appeasement" and "dithering" swirled around Congress this week, there was a sense of déjà vu. Mr Carter was blamed for America's feeling of impotence in the face of the Iranian hostage challenge. Many congressmen sense that Mr Bush's talk of President Saddam Hussein's cave-in over the United Nations inspection of the agriculture ministry in Baghdad is an empty boast.

White House aides could hardly contain their glee last weekend at seeing the television coverage of President Bush's emergency meeting with his national security advisers. It was all so Gulf war.

The president's re-election prospects would be boosted. The previous week of Republican in-fighting and talk by desperate congressmen of dumping Dan Quayle as Mr Bush's running mate would be forgotten. The Grand Old Party's media strategists realised the idea of distinguishing the president from Bill Clinton, depicting the Democrat nominee as a small-state politician who could not be expected to deal with the big boys' stuff of international affairs.

But if the president's press was bad last week over the GOP's panic at the sight of Governor Clinton's intimidating two-to-one lead in the opinion polls, it has been diabolical this week: "Beerily disconnected", "incoherent",

and "a figure of genuine pathos" were just the few epithets poured out by the normally cautious conservative writer, George Will. Two distinguished columnists described Mr Bush's re-election efforts as the "worst-conceived incumbent presidential campaign in memory". A Republican senator, Alfonse D'Amato, the Republicans' court jester, even had the gall to say Mr Bush should drop out of the elections.

Dismal opinion polls for Mr Bush continue to roll in. In California, a state Mr Bush narrowly won in 1988, a poll showed Governor Clinton leading by 34 per cent, the largest lead ever recorded by a presidential nominee in the West Coast state. Worse even than that, the president is beginning to fall back badly on his strongest ground. A poll conducted by Gallup at the weekend gave Mr Bush his lowest rating on foreign policy so far in this presidency.

In retrospect, the White House aides should have realised that the new Iraqi crisis would not necessarily play Mr Bush's way. The television pictures of Saddam implacably celebrating yet another stand-off with Washington by swimming across the Tigris reminded Americans that there is unfinished business in the Gulf and prompted commentators after commentators to ask why the Iraqi dictator is still in power, and why was he not finished off last year when the chance had presented itself.

With several congressional committees turning up more embarrassing details about the administration's pro-Iraq policy before the Gulf war, Americans have been left wondering how sure-footed President Bush really is on foreign policy. Far from being intimidated by the sight of Mr Bush in commander-in-chief mode, Mr Clinton and Senator Al Gore, his running mate, have been quick to ram home the lingering questions while at the same time being careful to sound supportive of the administration's talk of military action. The Democrat pair have also continued to direct the campaign back on to their turf: the economy, health care, jobs.

The mixed signals from the administration over how it intends to proceed against Iraq have not helped to give the impression of a White House in control. One minute marching up the hill, the next marching down again, sending a third aircraft carrier to the Mediterranean, then not sending it, has led some congressmen to ask whether the administration knows what it is doing.

Most of the mixed signals are the result of the White House's need to keep the pressure on Saddam, while not running too far ahead of other Gulf coalition governments, who are less enthusiastic about manipulating another showdown with Saddam so that Baghdad can be put firmly in its place.



Carter: pushed out of the Oval office

Saddam tightens grip on dissent

A cabinet reshuffle will boost presidential control over student opponents, Christopher Walker and Jamie Dettmer write

Boosted by the result of Iraq's latest stand-off with the West over weapons inspection, President Saddam Hussein yesterday announced a cabinet reshuffle designed to strengthen his grip over the economy and student dissent.

The head of Iraq's now defunct atomic energy commission, Hussen Abdel-Khalik, a close confidant of the president, was appointed higher education minister in place of Abdul Kazzak al-Hashemi, who was dismissed. The move was claimed in diplomatic circles to be related to recent reports of unrest in Iraqi universities.

In another presidential decree the finance minister, Majid Abed Jaafar, was replaced by the foreign minister, Ahmad Hussein al-Khodair, who was expected to take a firmer grip on prices and also on the slumping value of the Iraqi dinar. The move followed reports from travellers recently arriving in Iraq of up to 40 executions in the past few days of merchants accused of profiteering. The travellers said that relatives of the dead were then barred by Iraqi secret police from publicly mourning them.

Traders were rounded up and tied to telephone poles in front of their shops where they were pelted with eggs and fruit and spat on, one recent arrival from Iraq said yesterday. Signs were hung around their necks describing them as "greedy merchant" he added. They were later taken away and some were executed.

The crackdown was endorsed by Saddam in a weekend speech as prices were escalating and queues growing in anticipation of renewed military action by the West. "The law takes action over the necks that do not deserve to live," he said. In the past, the president has always avoided putting any blame on his own past policies for the acute difficulties now being suffered by many ordinary Iraqis who must cope with prices on a black market that put many goods out of the reach of any but the elite which helps to keep Saddam in power. Official newspapers said several traders were "displayed in public so that anyone would be a lesson to anyone trying to profiteer at the expense of the people." The travellers arriving in

Jordan said that merchants had protested in vain that they were not responsible for the soaring prices which they insisted, were caused by the plunge in the value of the Iraqi dinar and the effect of UN sanctions.

"The Voice of the Iraqi People" thought to be based in Saudi Arabia, claimed that troops had opened fire on Wednesday night on demonstrators protesting against the executions.

In Washington, the Bush administration's plan to frame a new United Nations resolution permitting military action to be taken against Iraq unless Saddam halts air and ground attacks against Shia Muslim villages in southern Iraq, was at the centre of talks between the Gulf war coalition governments yesterday.

Both Britain and France support the idea of a new specific resolution and accept Washington's argument that Saddam has to be pulled into a new regime of full compliance with all UN resolutions. "We do not see much point in issuing a blanket resolution criticising Saddam for his general behaviour," a Western diplomat said yesterday. "It would be too vague. We need a specific challenge."

The announcement late on Wednesday by Edward Perkins, the US ambassador to the UN, that the Bush administration was preparing to draft a resolution authorising punitive action for Baghdad's offensive against Shia Muslims, marks a turnaround in White House policy.

The allies had frequently insisted that they had all the UN authority they needed to intervene in southern Iraq. But they now concede that clarification is needed and that resolution 688, the one they will invoke if they launch strikes to protect the Shia Muslims, is not clear-cut about punitive action.

Resolution 688, which demands the end to Iraq's repression of dissidents and its acceptance of basic human and political rights, was not passed under UN Charter provisions granting member states automatic enforcement powers. For the allies to be sure of United Nations backing for intervention in southern Iraq, a new resolution will be required.

THE Lebanese army yesterday drove Hezbollah forces from a barracks they have occupied in east Lebanon for ten years. Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, threatened to wage an all-out war if troops attempted to remove his forces from government buildings in his stronghold in the Chouf mountains.

About 500 Lebanese soldiers led by a column of 15 tanks, 20 lorries and eight Jeeps moved into Shaikh Abdallah barracks between lines of Hezbollah guerrillas toting rocket-propelled grenades and chanting "Death to Israel, death to America." The army takes over followed a squabble among Hezbollah members.

A faction led by its Shaikh Subhi Toufaily, the former secretary-general, refused at the last minute to leave. The problem was solved peacefully later when high-level Syrian officials and Lebanese intelligence officers contacted the Hezbollah leadership in Beirut and its backers in Tehran.

Residents said soldiers flying the Lebanese flag entered the barracks, which sits on a hilltop overlooking Roman ruins in the ancient city of Baalbek, east of Beirut, at midday yesterday.

The troops immediately took down Iranian flags



Body building: a model shows off an inflatable bikini top which enables women to boost their bust size at the touch of a button using technology adapted from pump-up trainers. A Californian swimwear designer, mindful of the physical scrutiny that is part of California beach life, has invented the bikini, named "Top Secret" (Ben Macintyre writes from New York). Designed by Jacqueline Bronson for Cole of California and selling at \$72

(£37.50) the bikini cups contain plastic air chambers which inflate using a tiny pump in the middle of the bikini. "A woman can have a big cleavage for her day on the beach," says Ms Bronson, who spent 10 months designing the suit. "It's the '90s way to have a cleavage." Breast enlargement using silicone implants has recently fallen from favour after American medical authorities imposed a temporary ban on such surgery, citing possible health

complications. To avoid potential embarrassment, Ms Bronson says a repair kit is being developed. "There has been such a concentration on the bustline, with pads, underwire and push-ups," says Ms Bronson. "It just popped into my head that an inflatable bikini could work." A patent is pending for the invention, which will be available in floral, polka dot and ethnic patterns, and be previewed at fashion shows in Hawaii and California.

Lebanese tanks roll in to drive out Hezbollah forces from barracks

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

THE Lebanese army yesterday drove Hezbollah forces from a barracks they have occupied in east Lebanon for ten years. Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, threatened to wage an all-out war if troops attempted to remove his forces from government buildings in his stronghold in the Chouf mountains.

About 500 Lebanese soldiers led by a column of 15 tanks, 20 lorries and eight Jeeps moved into Shaikh Abdallah barracks between lines of Hezbollah guerrillas toting rocket-propelled grenades and chanting "Death to Israel, death to America." The army takes over followed a squabble among Hezbollah members.

A faction led by its Shaikh Subhi Toufaily, the former secretary-general, refused at the last minute to leave. The problem was solved peacefully later when high-level Syrian officials and Lebanese intelligence officers contacted the Hezbollah leadership in Beirut and its backers in Tehran.

Residents said soldiers flying the Lebanese flag entered the barracks, which sits on a hilltop overlooking Roman ruins in the ancient city of Baalbek, east of Beirut, at midday yesterday.

The troops immediately took down Iranian flags

around barracks, erased graffiti and removed posters of Iran's late leader, Ayatollah Khomeini. A resident said that on Wednesday night Hezbollah brought bulldozers and demolished underground cells and ditches that they had constructed in the former army base. Remarks made by some foreign hostages have indicated that they were held in cells in the barracks at some point during their captivity.

The fighters had apparently moved to a hotel near by. The barracks gained a notorious reputation when 200 Iranian Revolutionary Guards set their headquarters there after they were dispatched from Iran to help fight the Israeli invaders in 1982. The barracks was bombed several times in 1983 by French jet fighters retaliating against the Hezbollah bombing of their paratroops base in Beirut during which 51 French servicemen were killed.

In Beirut, Marwan Hamadi, the Druze health minister and Mr Jumblatt, the minister of state, resigned from the cabinet, threatening to resort to war when army units moved to seize two buildings in the Chouf mountains. Mr Jumblatt, leading a demonstration of about 10,000 people, staged a sit-in at the

national library in Baalbek, 16 miles east of Beirut, in an attempt to prevent the army from seizing it. The library was a government prison before the Druze took control of the Chouf mountains during the civil war. Mr Jumblatt also tried to stop troops from taking over the nearby Mir-Amin palace which his militia had turned into an hotel and restaurant.

The army was carrying out a government decision to take control of all public facilities and buildings that have been seized by the militias. Since last Thursday, troops have taken over the Christian militia headquarters and other sites which had been occupied by Shia, Druze, Sunni and fundamentalist activists.

"Under falling shells and showers of bullets we struggled to build this library and renovated the palace, we will never allow them take away our achievements during the war," Mr Jumblatt said during the sit-in.

Israeli warplanes bombed suspected Hezbollah bases near of Tyre in south Lebanon for the second time in a few hours yesterday, wounding two civilians. The raid was the 25th Israeli air strike on Hezbollah and Palestinian targets in south Lebanon this year in which more than 40 people have died, security forces said.

The sources said that the Israeli jets fired rockets on the village of Yater. Earlier yesterday, Israeli warplanes fired air-to-surface missiles at Hezbollah bases in the village of Milita in the Iqlim al-Toufah area, 25 miles south of Beirut. (Reuters)

URGENT PUBLIC APPEAL

From The International Director of the British Red Cross

I've just got back from Somalia. What I saw there will stay with me forever. Thousands of people are huddled in the streets, dying of starvation. Among them are hundreds of tiny children, too sick to move. In Mogadishu 2,000 people die every day. And each day still more starving people arrive from the drought-ridden countryside. I implore you to help them. Please send urgent funds to our Action for Somalia appeal. We need £2 million just to save the people who are facing death by starvation NOW. Already, the Red Cross feeds 600,000 starving people every day.

YET THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. Because for every 3 people we feed, 2 more have to be turned away. But just £36 from you can feed a child for a whole year.

Please make your urgent gift now by completing and returning the coupon below. Thank you.

Yes, I want to help. Here is my gift of: £400 ☐ £100 ☐ £75 ☐ £50 ☐ £36 ☐ £20 ☐ £10 ☐ (Please make cheque/PO payable to British Red Cross)

Name Address

VA ref of 1400 is worth 1533 as it qualifies for gift Aid. OR Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Diners Card

No. Expiry Date

Signature Date

Post to: British Red Cross, FREEPOST, London SW1X 7SR.

To make a credit card donation NOW, call the SOMALIA APPEAL HOTLINE on 071 235 3424

British Red Cross registered charity no. 220495 TT05

Actor auctioning Oscar to pay for operation

Harold Russell, 78, the handicapped former Army instructor who won a best supporting actor Oscar in 1946 as a handless sailor in *The Best Years of Our Lives*, is selling the golden statuette at a New York auction next month.

"My wife has to have an eye operation and we had a problem with the house and I need some money," he said from his home in Hyannisport, Massachusetts. The actor Karl Malden, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, has pleaded with Russell to reconsider and offered a loan, saying that Oscars should not become "objects of mere commerce".

Traffic came to a halt in Riga's city centre when Denmark's Queen Margrethe went sightseeing in the Latvian capital.

local journalists said. The queen visited neighbouring Estonia earlier this week, and will go to Lithuania today.

The evangelist Billy Graham, who first preached in Moscow in 1962 when it was still part of the Soviet Union, is returning in October for his first revival in the CIS, it was reported in Minneapolis.

The comedian Robin Williams, 41, has reached an out-of-court settlement in a \$5.2 million (£3.2 million) lawsuit in which his ex-lover Michelle Carter, 28, a former waitress accused him of infecting her with herpes, his lawyer said in San Francisco.

The multi-millionaire Donald

Trump has filed suit against his ex-wife, Ivana Trump, in Manhattan for talking publicly about their marriage, accusing her of fraud for the "willful, deliberate and surreptitious disclosure" of his personal, professional, and financial dealings.

Finland's new minister of trade and industry is to be the current cabinet secretary, Pekka Tuomisto, 52, government sources said, replaces Kauko Juhantola.

Jordan's King Hussein and the American-born wife Queen Noor left on a private visit to Europe, the official news agency Petra said.

Rodney King, the black mo-

torist whose videotaped beating by white Los Angeles police sparked international outrage, has been ordered to undergo weekly drug and alcohol testing after a drink driving arrest, officials said.

The American director Oliver Stone wants to make a film about the Spanish civil war based on George Orwell's *Homage To Catalonia* with British rock star David Bowie in the leading role, Spanish news reports said.

The Armenian president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, has named Khosrov Aarutunian as the head of government, replacing the vice-president, Gagik Arutunian, who was doubling as acting prime minister, Tass news agency said.

Israeli arsenal explosion kills two

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

A POWERFUL explosion in an Israeli military installation in a heavily built-up residential area north of Tel Aviv killed two people and injured 38 others yesterday.

The blast, the second of its kind in as many months, occurred in an underground munitions depot as employees arrived for work at the Israel Military Industries factory in Nof Yam, just north of the affluent coastal town of Herzliya. "I saw a flash and a second later heard a big explosion and then the sky turned black," said Avraham Nahmias, a worker at the plant, who was slightly injured. "I fell to the floor and covered my head with my hands and I could feel masonry, sand and tree branches falling on top of me."

The explosion caused momentary panic among residents in the normally peaceful residential area, who compared it to the impact of Iraqi missiles in the Gulf war 18 months ago. Traffic was halted for several hours on the main coastal highway between Tel Aviv and Haifa and local people reported extensive damage to property. Windows and doors were blown out.

Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, ordered an official enquiry, headed by a former general, to establish if the state-owned armaments firm was negligent and if future accidents could be prevented. However, dozens of local residents showed that they had already reached their own conclusions when they picketed the entrance to the plant, demanding that the sprawling and heavily guarded complex be relocated immediately to a less built-up area.

The explosion at Nof Yam comes after a similar blast almost exactly a month ago at the company's Ramle munitions plant, when two people were killed in an accident. At the time, the former Likud government promised to relocate all potentially harmful military installations to the southern Negev desert, where Israel has built other sensitive military sites, most notably its nuclear facility at Dimona.

Shimon Shetret, the new minister for economic planning, promised yesterday that the government would expedite the £78 million plan to move potentially dangerous facilities out of built-up areas over the next five years. ● Palestinian shot: A Palestinian stabbed and injured two Israeli policemen near an entrance to Jerusalem's Old City yesterday before he was shot and killed by a passerby. The officers, one of whom was seriously injured, were directing traffic.

Why Major can afford to wait

Despite a poor economic outlook time is still on his side, says Peter Riddell

John Major's smile and conciliatory manner are deceptive. He is turning out to be as stubborn as his predecessor. Three times this month he has shown his determination to press on with what he believes, regardless of what critics on the backbenches and in the tabloids say. He has stressed his commitment both to ratifying the Maastricht treaty (while not forcing the issue until after the French referendum) and to the current economic strategy.

So far, he has also seen off Sir David English and the rest of the tabloid pack calling for the resignation of David Mellor. Such single-mindedness has many virtues, but it also involves the risk of looking out of touch and becoming isolated.

Mr Major does not face an immediate political threat. Despite the midsummer rumblings, most cabinet ministers to whom I have spoken are more relaxed, or rather more patient, than Tory backbenchers. They are prepared to put up with short-term respite, in the belief that the economy will be on the right course in time for an election in four years' time. There is no dissent inside the cabinet. Mr Major is determined to avoid the splits of the second half of the 1980s, and to show that he is absolutely at one with Norman Lamont over the economy and with Douglas Hurd over Maastricht.

Mr Major's problem is largely one of timing. He believes that the decision to enter the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) in October 1990 was correct and will be vindicated, even if the recession is much longer than expected. As Mr Lamont argued three weeks ago, alternatives, such as devaluation, leaving the ERM or an immediate sharp cut in interest rates, are illusory cures which risk higher interest rates and faster inflation.

But the reputation of that doctrine, persuasive though it is, does not answer immediate doubts. Renewed promises about turning points lack conviction: when Leon Brittan was chief secretary 10 years ago, he was much criticised for talking about day always following night. Confidence has been undermined by gloomy new forecasts from the Confederation of British Industry and the construction sector.

The government can argue against a reversal of strategy, but it is vulnerable because it appears to be impotent. Modern politicians are expected to be active, to be seen to be responding to difficulties. Herbert Hoover was defeated heavily by Franklin Roosevelt 60 years ago, not because their pre-election policies differed much, but because he appeared passive in face of the deepening depression, while FDR promised action. George Bush's current low ratings reflect mainly his indecisiveness in domestic policy.

Similarly, Mr Major can now be accused of passivity, as John Smith and Gordon Brown, the

new shadow chancellor, have recognised. But they know that Labour would be attacked if it called for a devaluation, so they have limited themselves to urging concerted action to cut interest rates and for talks about ERM realignment. Instead, Labour will concentrate on attacking government "inactivity" and calling for domestic measures to aid recovery.

In many ways, Mr Major's stance is admirable and right. To withdraw from the ERM or to devalue unilaterally would shatter the credibility of government strategy, showing that, yet again, Britain was unwilling to persist with a policy. Not only would it mean the end of Mr Lamont, and possibly also of Mr Major, it would also leave the government rudderless.

The constraints of the ERM and of high public sector borrowing leave little room for manoeuvre either on interest rates or public spending, but in the meantime "there is no alternative" is not enough. Between changing the strategy and Wilsonian gimmicks, the government has few options. Some, however, were raised yesterday in *The Times* by Howard Davies, the new CBI director-general and a former special adviser in the Treasury. As he argued, "the impression that the government is boxed in is itself

Ministers need to show they are not passive spectators and can assist recovery

damaging to business and consumer confidence". He proposed the maintenance of public sector investment, a stimulus to the housing market, higher depreciation for plant and machinery investment, a replacement for the business expansion scheme to help smaller firms, and a reduction of Britain's high electricity prices.

Some of these proposals can be dismissed as CBI special pleading. Overall, they might raise public sector borrowing, rather than constraining it as the Treasury wishes. But the government could incorporate some of them, plus some rejigged employment measures, in the autumn statement, with a few hints dropped by the already criticised Mr Lamont at the Tory conference in early October to calm the party. As I wrote last week, the public spending targets are not as tough as was initially claimed. Spending could still rise by nearly 4 per cent in real terms next year. While some of the increase will be eaten up by the direct costs of the recession, Mr Lamont's new cabinet committee could still ensure that capital investment is protected and current spending is restrained.

Ministers need to show they are not passive spectators and that they are trying to assist recovery. Otherwise they risk undermining support for the underlying strategy. Mr Major is probably correct to believe the government can ride out the current turbulence, and perhaps a storm in the autumn, but he would be unwise to behave as if April's election victory means he is automatically right and can brush aside party worries.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

While I have always brandished scepticism in the face of such jolly legends as the one which has it that when Jimmy Watt saw his man's kettle rattling and immediately began working out how to get it to pull the 8.14 from Leeds to Euston, I nevertheless accept that many a scientific discovery is born of happy accident. Until Wednesday, however, I had never been able to test this personally, despite my having spent 19,764 days wandering the planet, each of them had gone by without my fortuitously stumbling against something which, after I had tinkered with it a bit, would leave that planet a better place.

But on Wednesday, the search for a housewarming present led me to a Nottingham Hill junkie where, having judged the options of a clockwork parrot that shrieked "Guten Morgen!" and a vase which let you shove flowers where Gladstone's brains ought to be, I pumped for a Great Exhibition glass paperweight the size of a tennis ball, containing Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and a couple of dogs, who, having set off for a stroll on a fine clear morning, could have their day ruined by anyone who cared to shake their premises, covering its inhabitants with snow. Set on a yellowed ivory base, it was patently worth every penny to anyone born yesterday, so I forked out and drove it home.

It was only after I had unwrapped it that I noticed that the newspaper it had been

swaddled in was slightly moist. I ran a finger over the paperweight and found that this was slightly moist too. That it had suffered a minor leak, possibly as the result of rolling around in my glove compartment, was obvious as soon as I allowed the whirling storm to settle: everything was covered in snow, except the Consort's stovepipe hat, which was above the level of the fluid. The tabernacle had thus taken on a far more somber cast than hitherto, suggesting that the luckless royals had been cheerfully walking their dogs on, say, some frozen pond, when the ice had suddenly given way beneath them.

Since you could not warm a house with so broken-down a gift, I turned the paperweight this way and that, finally working out, from the continued seepage, that the fluid was emerging between the glass ball and the ivory base, since when I tightened this latter the leaking stopped. Obviously, all that was required was for me to unscrew it completely, refill the ball with water, and screw it up again.

After a minute or so, I had an unscrewed base, an empty crystal ball, an unpronounceable hemisphere of green glass grass with one royal and one dog attached to it, a little pile of white flakes, and separately, another royal and another dog. Quite why Queen Victoria and one of her dogs should have detached themselves from the green glass grass, I did not know, nor why Queen Victoria when I picked her up to try to

The auction is a year away, but the biggest train sale ever mounted has begun. This week, the bus operator Stagecoach revealed its ambitions to run all Scotland's trains. Last week, Richard Branson asked John MacGregor, the transport secretary, to back Virgin Group's plan to run between London and Edinburgh.

British Rail's own managers have also entered the fray. Chris Green, managing director of InterCity, sees fragmentation of his network as a major threat to rail's share of the long distance market; the search is on for ways of keeping his successful brand intact under private ownership. But InterCity is already in retreat. Direct services to Shrewsbury and Telford ended in May. Cleethorpes and Lincoln follow in September, and probably Blackpool too.

Mr Green is under pressure to hand over the four IC 125s that Mr Branson wants for his pioneer Virgin Flyers to Edinburgh. They will almost certainly be stripped from the North Wales coast, enraging civic dignitaries from Chester to Holyhead, who last year

saw trains to London slashed from six to three a day and now face the prospect of none at all. While local trains will still serve Llandudno, the same cannot be said of many smaller towns such as Whitby and Newquay, where the upheaval of privatisation poses a real threat that there will be no railway.

The risk is not immediately apparent from last week's white paper. "The Government fully recognises the social and other benefits of regional and commuter services," it insists, and "is committed to providing continuing subsidy to support them".

In theory, loss-making services can be franchised to the bidder demanding least subsidy. In practice, there is every reason to fear a smokescreen behind which total subsidy is trimmed through neglect of infrastructure and rolling stock. As the maintenance backlog increases, so the cost of putting a line back into good order becomes progressively harder to justify. BR

Richard Hope asks how Britain's branch lines will fare under rail privatisation

The threat of safety

was pressed by the transport department during most of the 1980s to substitute buses for rural lines, as diesel railcars bought in the 1950s wore out.

At present, lines and stations can be closed only after a public enquiry has been held by the local transport users' committee. There were more than 20,000 objections to closure of the scenic Settle and Carlisle line in the mid-1980s, and in the face of such numbers, politicians panicked.

In the 1990s, safety has provided a new gambit. In future, train operators may be allowed to withdraw a service for up to six months on safety grounds before activating formal closure proceedings. The only valid grounds for objection are personal hardship, and it will be extremely difficult to demonstrate that withdrawal of a service as much as a year earlier poses a threat to anyone's lifestyle.

The safety weapon lies ready to hand. Late in 1990, the Railway

Inspectorate suddenly ordered BR to bring all platforms up to standards laid down for new stations in terms of lighting, length and height. The deadline of October 1991 was totally impractical (some stations don't even have electricity), and in any case there was no evidence that failure to meet these standards at hundreds of rural stations presented a significant safety risk.

In the event, the inspectorate backed off, but last winter in the west country (though nowhere else) trains ceased to stop at various stations like Luxulyan after dark. Nobody, of course, has prevented buses setting down passengers on unlit country roads.

Another subtle game which BR has been playing (and franchisees will doubtless do likewise) is cutting back the service for which it receives a block grant from the government, and then demanding cash from the county council in order to restore the old timetable.

There is much to be said for giving local authorities power to decide what level of rail service they want. This is the principle behind the passenger transport authorities in the former metropolitan counties, which support local trains in such cities as Birmingham and Glasgow.

The trouble is that most British counties are too small to encompass a sensible rail network, at least today; there is widespread appreciation of the benefits that good public transport can bring.

Mr MacGregor's cardinal error is to view rail privatisation primarily as a means of saving money, so as to fund his expanding road programme. France, by contrast, is building 2,000 miles of new high-speed line, financed privately but with government backing.

As a result, we face chaotic balkanisation of the national passenger network in the 1990s, and a lot of unhappy rail users. Which is a pity, because in many respects the Blair that people like Mr Branson could bring to our railways is badly needed.

The author is consultant editor of *The Railway Gazette*.

Germany puts itself on trial

Anne McElvoy on the political quicksands of the Honecker case

East Germany's home-grown version of *Pravda*, *Neues Deutschland*, is still good for the odd lambast at the perfidy of capitalism or justification of the way things used to be. Cato-like, it praises the lost cause, and it can usually be ignored for anything other than entertainment. Yesterday, however, the sight of its front page on the news-stands had east Berliners doing a double-take.

Ignoring the picture used by almost every other German paper of a defiant Erich Honecker, clenched fist raised in the greening of the Red Front street-fighters, the paper used instead a close-up from its archive, showing the former leader in snug conversation with Chancellor Kohl on his visit to Bonn in 1987.

The headline echoed the bland announcements of yesterday, initials, evasions and all: "Erich Honecker in the capital of the Federal Republic again". The account began, "The longtime president of the council of state of the GDR and General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, Erich Honecker..." before going on to say that he is now behind the walls of Moabit prison.

It was a splendid joke. However, on the day that Herr Honecker was presented with a 700-page charge-sheet relating to the deaths of 49 escapees at the border and sundry corruption felonies, the question is whether the joke will turn sour.

The trial, due to begin in the autumn, will be the most complex in Germany this century. While Nuremberg springs to mind, the hearings of the Nazi war criminals were simplicity itself by comparison. Then the prosecutors were the allied nations which had been at war with the power which had perpetrated the atrocities. Legally speaking, Nuremberg was full of holes, yet it was a necessary reckoning with an evil regime, carried out by those who were seen as having a moral right to sit

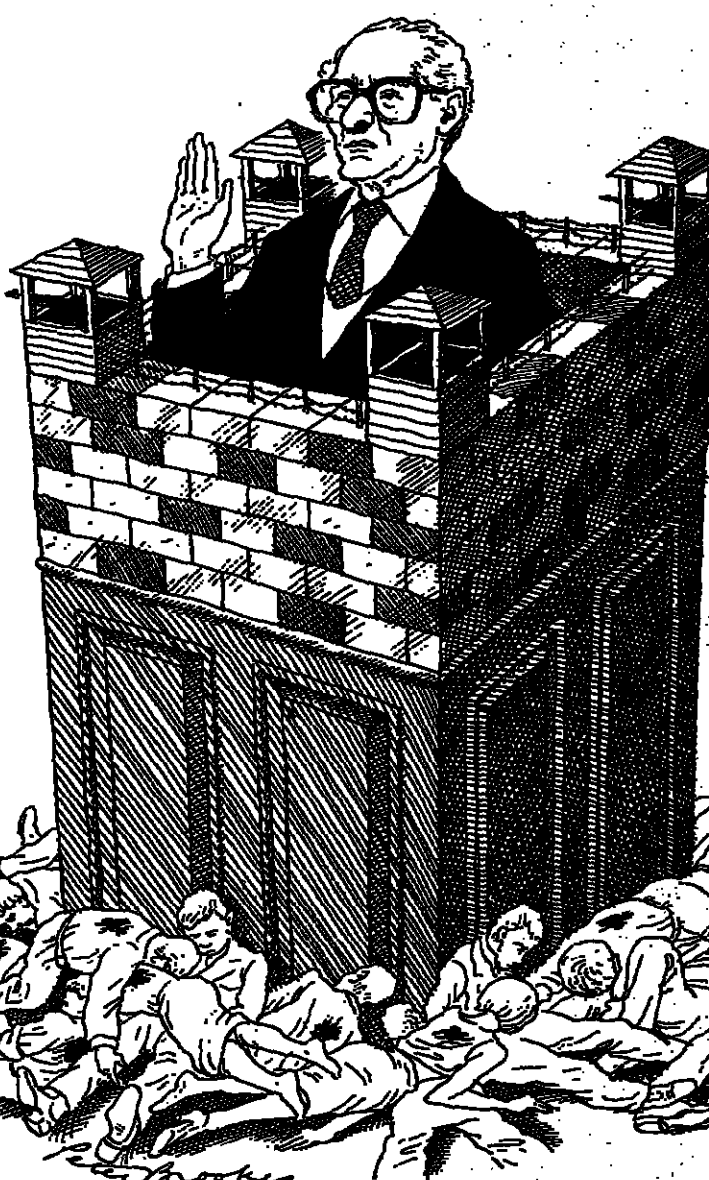
in judgement, by virtue of their victory.

This case is rather different. Only five years ago, the Bonn government, for reasons best known to itself, provided a welcome for Herr Honecker which was a state visit in all but name. That the same government is now intent on a trial is not inherently contradictory — Bonn can plead that its earlier rapprochement with Honecker was aimed at alleviating the suffering caused by the closed border, and that it loudly condemned the shootings over the years — but the image of Honecker and Kohl standing together with heads bowed as the band played their respective anthems lingers in the minds of many Germans.

West Germany's recognition in 1973 of East Germany as a state will be one strong plank in Herr Honecker's defence. He will also remind the court that the inter-German border was the frontier between two systems, constructed in the chill of the Cold War. He has already indicated that he will refer the court to the orders of the Kremlin.

Despite protestations by the Berlin prosecutors that this will not be a political trial, it is difficult to see how it can be anything else. For the threads of juridical and political evidence are inextricably knotted together.

The dearest question of this is the wrangle over whether there was actually an order to shoot escapees dead at the border. No document has been produced which a court would normally accept as an order, and the case must proceed without one. But as any East German who served on the border will tell you, a command was to be obeyed even if it was not posted up as a decree in the barracks room. When the National Defence Council met in 1974 to formalise the niceties of incarceration and issued a state-



ment declaring "Now as before for attempts to break through the border, there must be ruthless use of firearms" everyone from the unit commander to the 19-year-old wielding a gun in the spotlight knew what it meant.

But how did they know? They knew because they were accustomed to the mechanisms of dictatorship and accepted them, which again emphasises that this trial for manslaughter cannot avoid political considerations.

On the legal side, the court has

to decide the basic question of which laws to apply. In the earlier case of four border guards, two of whom were convicted, the western judges often seemed to be unsure whether retrospectively they should apply East German law or West German law to events which took place in the east.

It is easier to take East German law as a starting point, for like many dictatorships the GDR managed to ignore its own constitution when convenient. But so much of the body of East German

law is defective that individual courts cannot be left to decide what to accept and what to reject. To apply West German law would be constitutional, even retrospectively, since the Basic Law of the Federal Republic was stated to apply to "all Germans", and the west never recognised East German citizenship. Yet it would create the impression that West Germany was sitting, victor-like, in judgement over the east, without having earned the moral right to do so, as the allies at Nuremberg had done.

Some might think these considerations too fastidious, and conclude that if Bonn has the right to apply its law to the east, and has moral right on its side in the minds of most of the public, then the political overtones of the trial are no particular obstacle. But that is to forget the Germans' inordinate sensitivity about the law. While judges are treated with craven respect (it would be unthinkable to doubt or denounce them as the press regularly does in Britain), there is much public debate about the interpretation of law, and an ingrained habit of running to the constitutional court to challenge the rulings of lower courts. Such vestigial reactions to the abuse of the judicial system in the Third Reich are deep-seated. Contrary to Herr Honecker's professed fears, there is less danger of his being unfairly tried than of the case being scrupulously fair but inconclusive.

The real purpose of this trial is to remind the world that no evildoer should feel safe, even if he has the protection of a state for his crimes. Just occasionally, history catches up with those who try to evade justice.

That lesson will be learnt the moment the frail, stubborn figure of Herr Honecker takes the stand. What follows is unlikely to satisfy the desire of the nation to lay to rest the second German dictatorship of the century. That is a task for the Germans themselves in the years to come, not for their courts.

Amateurs' bard

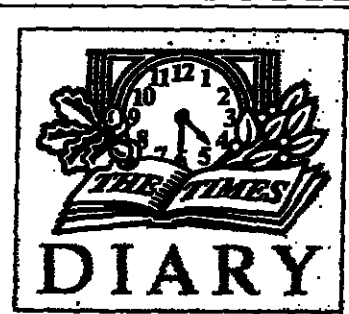
ONE of Britain's most sought-after poetry prizes has been resurrected and will be awarded for the first time in more than 30 years this September. The Forward Prize, offering the winning poet £10,000, intends to continue where the renowned Guinness award left off in the 1960s.

The Guinness, won by Robert Graves, W.H. Auden and Edith Sitwell, closed its entry books in 1961. Although five anthologies of the best verse were produced, Forward Publishing now intends to take the original idea a step further by producing a similar annual anthology to distribute free to



head teachers of English at secondary schools throughout Britain.

William Sieghart, Forward's chairman and the prime mover behind the project, has spent two months lobbying financiers, the government and even Guinness to help bring poetry out of poets' corners. "Guinness would have no truck with the idea," says Sieghart, "but we have had enormous support from other quarters. There is something 'Best of British' about the prize which will, I think,



capture the public imagination." Midland Bank and the government came up with the money and the judges have been appointed. Stephen Spender, Margaret Drabble, Roger McGough, John Bayley and Mick Imlah are now sifting through this year's entries.

But Sieghart issues a warning to armchair poets: "All those entering must either have won a prize of some sort or must be nominated by houses that publish poetry." Budding McGonagalls need not apply.

While debate rages over the number of holes in Michael Jackson's nose — most people have two — Dr Andrew Posma, consultant plastic surgeon at the Elizabeth Hospital in Leiden, Holland, can see nothing wrong with the singer's minuscule proboscis. Posma, who has been approached by Jackson's aides in the past with a view to putting him under the knife, turned down the 33-year-old multi-millionaire. "I have never spoken to Michael Jackson or seen him, but I have talked to the people around him," says Posma. "I think you only operate on someone to make them better." Jackson, who launched his eight-day tour of Britain with a libel suit against the Daily Mirror, will doubtless appreciate the eminent doctor's comments.

Into the fire

WHATEVER the recent criticisms of David Mellor, few can doubt his courage. The national heritage secretary has promised "business as usual", and there is an air of excited expectation at the journalists' benevolent organisation, the Newspaper Press Fund, where he is booked as guest of honour and main speaker at the society's annual reception on September 23.

Peter Evans, director of the charity, says: "We are all on tenterhooks here, but we have spoken to his office and we have no reason to believe he won't come." Tickets for the event are being printed and the venue, Stationers' Hall in the City of London, has been booked. The reception will bring Mellor face to face with the nation's journalists, editors and newspaper proprietors, including some who unsuccessfully attempted to engineer his downfall. Mellor was booked several months ago to stand in for the prime minister, the traditional guest speaker, as John Major's commitments as president of the EC prevent him from attending. Evans says it is up to the speaker to decide the topic for his speech, although it is customary to spend at least part of the time talking about the fund. Mellor is unlikely to be short of ideas.

Tilting at turbines

THEY practise what they preach at the BBC. Having extolled the virtues of alternative energy for weeks, the BBC Radio 4 programme *Costing the Earth* has been broadcast by wind turbine. The 25-minute programme, live from a hill farm in Dorset, is believed to be the first not to rely on the national grid. Engineers built a special rig in a caravan, using the low voltage from the turbine. But they took no chances. Solar

panels were on standby, as was a steam engine which burns ecologically friendly wood. The programme, which goes out on Sundays, promises more of the same, although whether such environmentally friendly broadcasting costs the earth is being kept secret.

Aspects of hate

YOU'VE read the papers now see the show. "Honecker — the musical" is about to hit the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The two-hour show, officially entitled *Frontiers*, written by Michael Omer and Andrew Forbes, has already played to appreciative audiences in Reading. The cast and crew of 70 are hoping that the Scottish run will make their reputations internationally. The plot concerns a family shot while attempting to cross the Berlin Wall. The survivors are split up and the ten-year-old son is taken into an orphanage run by a figure closely resembling Margot Honecker.

The son is finally reunited in the West with his mother, now a chat-show hostess in the Cilla Black tradition. "The play's dilemma is the perfect allegory for the post-revolutionary Europe of the Nineties," says Omer. It sounds serious stuff.

John Major may be a master of the off-drive, but he has rarely been known to take a swing with a sand wedge. Nevertheless, he will today lead a rather dusty set of golf clubs from the Downing Street attic to Andrew Turnbull, his former PPS, Turnbull, now a senior mandarin at the Treasury, is one of the Whitehall band taking on the Westminister-press team at the RAC course in Epsom. The clubs, which have only once previously seen the light of day, were presented to Major by golf manufacturers in his Huntingdon constituency.



GOOD DAY FOR SPORT

Moments of athletic triumph, such as Chris Boardman's thrilling cycling victory on Wednesday, tend to mask an unpleasant truth: drug taking is widespread in many sports and is endemic in some. The firm action taken by the British authorities in unceremoniously ordering three British competitors in the Barcelona Olympics to pack their bags is a welcome signal that cheating, at least by British sportsmen, will not be tolerated. Far from yesterday being a black day for sport, as many commentators assumed, it was a golden moment, a declaration that all sporting competition is meaningless unless it stands for fair play.

Too many other countries take a less robust attitude. Britons caught using steroids face a lifelong ban from the Olympics. Ben Johnson, the disgraced Canadian sprinter at the Seoul Olympics, is back competing at Barcelona. Katrin Krabbe, the German runner, continues her lucrative career — despite allegations about substitute samples when she and two compatriots were tested in South Africa this winter — because the charge could not be substantiated.

Such strictness matters because top sportsmen and women are hero worshipped. It is no coincidence that Jason Livingston, one of the Britons sent home from Spain yesterday, named Johnson as his hero and was nicknamed "Baby Ben" by his friends. For every millionaire athlete, with his greedy retinue of agents, trainers, lawyers, doctors and psychologists, there are thousands of youthful hopefuls who wish to emulate him. Humble the man and destroy the idol.

Many of the sports at the Olympics this year are the results of a careful process of codification a century or so ago carried out by amateur Victorian sportsmen, headmasters and others interested in setting down formal rule-books so that the same games could be played throughout the

Empire and the rest of the world. These practical sporting rules, many of which have proved far more enduring and useful than any legislation passed at Westminster, underpin the modern Olympics.

But now they are threatened by performance-enhancing drugs which undermine a century of fair play. In what sports can we be certain any longer who had the last fair word? Who was drug free? Why should any young athlete work hard for the physical achievement that can be procured by a quick shot from a hypodermic syringe?

Britain is in the lead in this Olympic contest at least. Just as the most successful sports were codified here, so today are ways being found here to enforce the spirit of those rules. The toughest and surest tactic against the steroid cheats is the random test. Every sportsman knows of highly-paid doctors whose role is to outwit the drug testers. No top class athlete will be caught out in Barcelona, unless their medical adviser is utterly incompetent. It is the tests carried out from the blue — such as on Tessa Sanderson while playing the genie in pantomime in Brighton — that prove an athlete to be truly drug free.

The 1992 Olympics will show that the determination of the British team to play fair was a decisive moment in modern sporting history. The television viewing public will not go on accepting as world records results achieved through pharmacology rather than athletic prowess. The International Olympic Committee should consider awarding an extra medal at the end of this year's games, for the country which has done the most to stamp out steroid abuse amongst its athletes. No country is yet strict enough in its drug testing and no complacency should follow these expulsions. But once sport toughens up its act, yesterday's example should be worth at least a bronze for Britain.

JAPAN'S BITTER LESSON

Japanese stock markets were for a long time an oriental mystery to Western financiers. Share prices soared, apparently defying the law of gravity. By the end of 1989, when the local share index reached a peak, the total market value of listed Japanese companies had comfortably passed that of American industry traded on Wall Street.

That mystery now looks like a conventional financial bubble that has exploded. Japan is having to adjust to the ways of the rest of the world, and with pain. These changes stem from the country's gradual integration into the world economy. Paradoxically they threaten the paternalistic foundations of Japan's post-war economic success and the trade surpluses which underpinned it.

Pressure from the United States and to a lesser extent from Europe obliged the Japanese government first to make the yen an international currency, bringing traditionally low Japanese interest rates into line with those elsewhere, and then to allow foreigners into its financial markets. Foreigners brought to Tokyo their own ways, including the destabilising financial techniques — such as automatic share-buying and selling — that have regularly ravaged Wall Street. They also brought their own business standards, including the primacy of the shareholder, enshrined in the Anglo-Saxon system of law, competition and financial regulation.

Japanese business, and by extension its corporatist political system, had previously paid lip service to such notions, but had really relied on a network of corruption, cartels, fixing and informal central direction. There were no collapses of share markets because the top securities houses and the Ministry of Finance so arranged it, mobilising money from Japanese housewives to keep capital values rising.

Few insiders cared to challenge the

dubious foundations of such a system. But foreigners did question it, demanding equal treatment and an end to cartelisation, and encouraging the normally cautious Japanese to go out into the world, to borrow and to lend. Such markets can no longer be propped up in the old way. The government must use more open but so far ineffective means, such as a £25 billion supplementary budget or interest rate cuts that have brought the official discount rate down from 6 per cent to 3.25 per cent in a year.

Share values have already fallen by three-fifths and a 2 per cent daily drop is commonplace. The powerful Japanese banking system is facing a double penalty of bad debts and shrinking capital resources, part of which depended on share prices. The bursting of the financial bubble is sorely damaging the economy, with no immediate end in sight.

Japan has never achieved the dominance in the world economy that once belonged to America, but the rest of the world has been keen to borrow the savings of Japan's middle classes as to buy the consumer products of Japan's innovative industries. Japanese financial institutions have played a significant role in funding America's government deficit, City of London properties and many industrial and infrastructure projects in developing countries.

Like any over-extended empire, Japanese finance is now pulling back from its periphery to prop up the centre. Multinational Japanese industrial companies must adjust to an era when funds are hard to come by. But like all bubbles once burst, the consequence is a more sensible assessment of the future. Once the present agencies are over, Japanese economic culture should be healthier by being more stable and more honest. But the agencies have a long way to go, and they will not be confined to Japan.

TYRANTS ON TRIAL

The mills of German justice grind slow but they grind exceedingly small. Once the Berlin Superior Court convicted two Berlin Wall guards for the shooting of a would-be escapee last year it became morally untenable to allow the former East German leader, Erich Honecker, to fade away in Moscow exile. The Berlin court found it was no defence for the border guards to plead that they were only obeying orders. Some of their colleagues had intentionally missed their human targets and others had found it easy to avoid duty on the Wall. The man who issued those orders and the Wall's only begotten son, Herr Honecker, could not be allowed to evade his responsibility.

Healing the wounds of a divided country is a painful business. The Anglo-Saxons have historically taken a moderate view. After the bloody American Civil War the Confederate leader Jefferson Davis was clapped in leg-irons at Fort Monroe, Virginia. For two years he was locked up, but eventually the federal government ducked a trial in the knowledge that the wrong verdict could vindicate the constitutional right to secede from the Union. In England after the Civil War, a century before, some of the regicides were sentenced to death for the death of King Charles I, but the Restoration settlement's vengeance was swift and limited.

The 20th century, however, has changed the rules. The modern state has a vast potential as the ruthless killing machine. Technology has allowed the state to wreak ever greater havoc on its enemies, both internal and abroad. After the slaughter in the mud of Flanders there was a virulent but ultimately unsuccessful press campaign in Britain to hang the Kaiser. But in Germany neither the exiled emperor nor his intransigent warlords had to sign the Versailles Treaty. The Weimar Republic therefore suffered the enmity of extreme nationalists

lust for revenge not only on the allies but also "the November criminals" supposedly responsible for the victors' peace.

After 1945 the crimes of the Nazis were thought to be so monstrous, the scale of the war so horrific, that some atonement had to be made. The Nuremberg trials were no gentle Napoleonic exile to St Helena. The Western allies had to impress upon the German people the moral squalor of a regime for which 44 per cent of them had voted. The allies also had to ensure the buck stopped at the top. No senior Nazi politician could ultimately be allowed to escape the consequences of his cruelty.

Today democratic Germany is forced to come to terms with nearly half a century of communism imposed by the Soviet Union in its eastern third. The ideology was vile and the collaborationist leadership was in Trotsky's words "the triumph of the mediocrity of the system". But Germany is proposing no blood purge in 1992. Retribution will not be meted out to the collaborationists on the scale of France and Italy in the immediate postwar years.

The German judiciary has produced at least 49 good reasons why Honecker should be prosecuted. The families of 49 men and women shot while trying to escape deserve something better than to allow Herr Honecker and his wife time to enjoy their twilight years in a Yalta dacha or a Chilean vineyard. The Times celebrated the 90th birthday of Sir Karl Popper this week by praising the philosopher's insistence on the transparency of science, indeed the principle that nobody should be able to hide his mistakes from view. "Physicists and politicians must stand or fall by their conjectures about the best way to understand nature or organise society", wrote Alan Ryan of Popper's view. Erich Honecker, too, must answer publicly for his misdeeds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Combining careers with motherhood

From Mrs Bridget Simmons

Sir, "In your own time please" (Life & Times, July 28) promoted the view of Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council, that it was better biologically and for our careers for women to have their children between the ages of 16 and 25.

This may be true, but gives little credence to the mental strain or maturity required to sustain a marriage that will last with children conceived at such an early age. You have to be very special indeed to start a career from scratch at 28, with a family at school.

For me and many of my friends the urge to leave school and create a career first was of primary importance. Married at 26, it took me until the age of 32 to decide to share the companionship of my husband with a baby and to feel we could afford mentally and financially to have a family.

All the examples given in your article are of women who have made a success of their lives and combined this with children. We should instead be looking at people who are half-way up the ladder and how they cope with it, often in small to medium-sized companies which are unlikely to offer much in the way of encouragement or child-care facilities.

If you are earning a salary of over £45,000 the decision to arrange child care and return to work is relatively easy. If you only earn half that and decide, as many young executives do, that home care and a nanny is the only answer, you will hardly take home enough pay to make working worth while.

The government-led initiative to encourage more women to continue their careers and have children should look more closely at those of

us who have neither started our careers late nor made it to the top before we have our first child. There are plenty of mothers-to-be who need encouragement on the middle rung to continue. Some sort of tax incentive is probably the only answer.

I believe that Lady Wilcox's initiative will only encourage more one-parent families among those whose marriage cannot take the strain of parenthood so early. As you report (July 29), the UK already tops the Euro-table of single mothers as it is.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET SIMMONDS
(Chief Executive),
Business in Sport and Leisure,
7 Soho Street, W1.
July 29.

From Mrs Susan Stewart

Sir, Some of us have been busy developing our selves and our careers. In our forties we find we are finer, and perhaps also temperamentally younger, than Lady Wilcox imagines. If we are also blessed with a willing partner, what better conditions could a baby encounter?

Lady Wilcox should be faced with a handful of older mothers and their babies in order to assess how "unfair" we are to them. She might observe how treasured these babies are, how alert, skilful, happy. They benefit from older siblings in many cases, but also from mothers who have no need to practise their signatures but might quite happily be breastfeeding whilst having a business discussion on the telephone with the chief executive of a bank.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN LAING STEWART
(Executive search consultant),
33 Southwood Lawn Road, N6.
July 29.

EC's entitlement to set VAT rates

From Mr R. N. Kemm

Sir, The significance of the agreement on minimum VAT of 15 per cent (report, July 28) is not its immediate impact on the UK's VAT rates (they are well above the new minimum level and likely to stay so) but our acceptance of the EC's right to regulate on the structure of VAT in one particular member country.

Monday's decision particularly affects the much lower rate of Luxembourg than its neighbours, leading to an artificial distortion of trade in Luxembourg's favour, particularly in petrol and domestic purchases.

The consequence for the UK would come if the EC decided it wished to end the UK's zero rating of food, children's clothes, books, and the like. Then Britain would be outvoted and, having yielded the principle, would attract little support if the commissioners argued that we should retain a separate regime.

In the election the Tories strenuously denied that they would change the rules on VAT. They may well now be in a position in which they cannot prevent others making the change, whether they want it or not.

Yours faithfully,

R. N. KEMM,

The University of Buckingham,

Department of Accounting,

Buckingham MK18 1EG.

July 28.

From the Director-General of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce

Sir, Contrary to the reactions of the Euro-sceptics, the agreement on the minimum rate of VAT in the EC is, from the view of British commerce and industry, a victory for free trade rather than a climbdown.

The whole package, containing as

it does significant simplifications to the red-tape involved in intra-Community trade, will be welcomed by exporters and importers alike, and should do much to improve competitiveness to the benefit of businesses and consumers alike. This is an important step towards completing the single market. The prize of creating a single market without border controls far outweighs any notional loss of sovereignty. With more than £100 billion worth of UK trade with the EC, it is a little churlish to worry about duty on wine gums.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. TAYLOR,
Director-General, Association of British Chambers of Commerce,
9 Tufton Street, SW1.
July 28.

From Mr Janos Delej

Sir, Your headline, "Britain forfeits sovereignty to Brussels on VAT", should have read: "Britain leads the way to an effective European economy".

Yours faithfully,
JANOS DELEJ,
2 Richmond Hill Court,
Richmond, Surrey.
July 29.

From Mr David McFetrich

Sir, I would have preferred to see Brussels setting a maximum level of VAT as a means of generating its desired more equal competitive conditions.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MCFETRICH,
8 Tower Road West,
Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.
July 28.

Business letters, page 21

Adoption hopes

From Mr Pete Bentley

Sir, Your front-page headline, "Baby hope for over 35s who want to adopt" (July 28), could seriously mislead many couples. Since 1974, when 5,200 babies were adopted, there has been a decrease each year in the number of babies available for adoption in England and Wales, the figures for 1989 being 1,100. As a consultant to the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, I know that the number of hopeful adopters of babies is very large.

As your report correctly states, many adoption agencies operate guidelines resulting in applicants over the age of 35 having little chance of having a baby placed with them. Rightly or wrongly, agencies tend to use this age limit as a rationing device. If the government issued guidance to prevent this (and we can see the arguments) then agencies would still have to find ways to limit applications.

You infer that agencies impose the same age constraints upon adopters who could provide a home for a child other than a baby. This is not so: the position concerning older children and children with disabilities is very different. There are many children waiting now for a family life: our *Be My Parent* newspaper features more than 100 in each edition.

It is true that a few children are adopted each year by a single parent. It would be wrong in our view to discourage single adopters. It is essential that the needs of the child are met, and it may be in a particular child's interest to be adopted by a particular single parent.

There is no restriction legally upon

placing a black child with a white family and vice versa. Our position is that adoption agencies should make great efforts to recruit adopters from all ethnic groups represented in society, and that the best placement for any child is normally with applicants from a similar ethnic background.

Yours faithfully,
PETE BENTLEY,
12 West Terrace,
Seaton Sluice, Northumberland.

From the Director of Parents for Children

Sir, The reported suggestion that the government's review of adoption law is likely to attempt to discourage single-parent adoption is disturbing.

This agency pioneered the adoption of children who in the 1960s and early 1970s had been thought to be unadoptable: older children who were emotionally disturbed and children with severe mental and physical disability. Of more than 145 children placed in our 15 years of existence, 33 children have been adopted by single parents, successfully.

Almost all of the children referred to us today have been victims of sexual and physical abuse. Research in America and increasingly here suggests that for such children a single parent is the adoptive family of choice. Discouraging such adopters would mean that some of the country's most needy children would lose that opportunity of healing their emotional wounds.

Yours faithfully,
KAREN WALKER,
Director, Parents for Children,
41 Southgate Road, N1.

Helping archaeology

From Mr D. J. Turner

Sir, The problem of declining opportunities for archaeological volunteers (Norman Hammond's report, July 22) is unlikely to be solved by imposing more bureaucratic restrictions through bodies such as English Heritage.

The proposal that grants only be given to excavations that include volunteers would, in any case, have little impact as only a small number receive English Heritage funds.

One answer is in a two-fold approach. First, there could be a return to local initiatives: professionals are largely concerned with rescue and have few resources for archaeological research. The Surrey Archaeological Society, for example, runs an annual excavation manned by volunteers and directed by professionals loaned from the county council's unit.

More important, there needs to be some expansion of the volunteer's role. Excavation is not the only avenue for archaeological research: interesting and valuable fieldwork can be done without putting a spade or trowel into the ground.

Members of the Surrey society are currently involved in two field surveys studying remarkable and hitherto neglected evidence of agricultural and other economic activities around the settlements which have always had the lion's share of attention in the past.

This is work well suited to the voluntary sector — better suited, in fact, than participation in most rescue excavations. The society has also recently taken on the management of a neglected field monument and volunteers are doing sterling work on the site.

Yours etc.,
DENNIS TURNER, President,
Surrey Archaeological Society,
Castle Arch,
Guildford, Surrey.
July 27.

Rabbiting skills

From Mr Arlin Rickard

Sir, Picking up on your interesting leader, "Run rabbit run" (July 28), I am pleased to say that traditional rabbiting skills are far from forgotten. In the South West alone, we have many thousands of ferret owners. These range from experienced countrymen to small boys eager to learn and a growing band of women, who find ferrets intriguing and charming pets.

There are ferret shows and racing at all our county shows. At both the Devon County and Royal Cornwall agricultural shows, rabbiting and ferreting, as well as the use of the traditional longnet, were key features of the country sports and conservation areas. Ferrets also featured prominently on the British Field Sports Society stand at the Country Landowners Association game fair last week.

Farmers can be seen scurrying with a ferret under their arm. The abundance of rabbits further allows whippets and lurchers to fulfil the role for which they were bred.

Religious tolerance

From Mr Ronald Stekel

Sir, We live in a multi-cultural, multi-religious society, and to live in aridly with each other we need to show respect and understanding for the beliefs of our neighbours.

In his article of July 6, Michael Lawson condemned the targeting of Jews and the violence of the past, but concluded by asserting that by loving and befriending Jews successful proselytisation would be achieved. Michael Latham in his article of July 20 gave a different view of evangelism, but it would seem from the correspondence published (July 25) that this is a minority view.

As a practising Jew, whose daughter was recently approached at Golders Green station by a member

of Wild rabbit is low in fat, in effect organically raised, and can be served in a variety of ways. The sport and meat it provides at least offer farmers some recompense for the damage to crops, young trees and hedges that the rabbits inflict.

Yours faithfully,
ARLIN RICKARD,
Bradford Lodge, Blandford,
Dorset, Dorset.
July 28.

From Mrs J. McCann

Sir, "Traditional rabbiting skills have been forgotten, probably for ever..." Rubbish! On our farm we have two young men and a girl of 12 who are adept at catching rabbits with nets and ferrets. The little girl and her ferret, both called Jenny, spend many hours successfully reducing the number of rabbits that trouble us.

Also, I am one farmer's wife at least who regularly skins a rabbit and makes a rabbit pie.

Yours faithfully,
J. MCCANN,
Park Grange, Bramshall,
Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

of Jews for Jesus, I am very concerned at this development. As vice-chairman of the defence and group relations committee of the Board of Deputies, I am painfully aware of the distress and suffering caused to families of students and others whose loved ones are pressured and enticed in this way.

Michael Latham has held out the hand of friendship and understanding, and I would hope that his attitude, which would permit all the people of this country to live together comfortably, will prevail.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD STEKEL,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.
July 28.

be justified or allowed to continue. Government has acknowledged that there is a problem to be solved — I am surprised to find *The Times* denies the need for a legislative solution.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FELLOWES, President,
Country Landowners Association,
16 Belgrave Square, SW1.
July 29.

From Mr Philip MacLagan

Sir, Your leader refers to the travelling hippies' desire for freedom of movement in a country "supposed to be free". Surely the rest of society is entitled to expect some input from them in return, maybe in the form of voluntary work. Perhaps they could clear derelict land and grow their own vegetables.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP MACLAGAN,
22 Silver Street,
Glastonbury, Somerset.
July 29.

From Mr Sydney Creamer

Sir, A hard-working, tax-paying friend was compelled to join a queue outside the Passport Office in Petty France last week at seven o'clock in the morning, in order to obtain a passport. Today (later editions) you show a photograph of hippies trespassing on an innocent farmer's land having their social security forms delivered to them.

Sir, have we got our priorities right?

Yours sincerely,
SYDNEY CREAMER,
25 Drayson Mews, W8.
July 29.

Machine talk

From Mr R. S. Amsden

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Like talking to a machine", July 27) wastes his callers' time and money on such an unnecessarily verbose answer-phone message. They are presumably as intelligent as he is and know that if the answer-phone comes on he is not available; they can also guess that he will call them back if he wants to.

Why not just say: "This is one, two, three — six, seven, eight, nine; please leave a message after the beep or fax me on three, four, five — six, seven, eight, nine?" This is all that is necessary and only takes eight seconds.

Yours etc.,
R. S. AMSDEN,
The Stables,
Woodcock Hill, Durrants Lane,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Stalking stemmed

From Mr Hugh Lowe

Sir, Mr Goodall's strength is, I am sure, undiminished (letter, July 28). I fear that he has been sold foreign strawberries which are firm, shiny and tasteless. He has noticed the very attributes prized by Californian strawberry breeders. If the calyx does not detach easily, the picker can pull the strawberry by holding the fruit. This makes picking much cheaper.

Our traditional English strawberry, being softer and juicier, has to be picked carefully by the stalk and laid in the punnet, leaving the purchaser to handle the fruit.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LOWE (Chairman,
National Farmers' Union
Soft Fruit Committee),
Barons Place, Mereworth,
Nr Maidstone, Kent.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Vice-Admiral Sir Horace Geoffrey Norman of Wickham, Hants, the oldest admiral in the Navy List, and Chief of Staff in Captain Sir Admirals John Cunningham during the second world war, left estate valued at £139,015 net.

Miss Mabel Seedy, of College Town, Bath, Berks., left net estate valued at £2,139,848 net. She left £10,000 to the Royal £5,000 each to the Royal Naval College, College Town, for the purchase of books and the purchase of a house, £170,000, her home and effects and £10,000 to the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslemere, Surrey, the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslemere, Surrey, and the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslemere, Surrey.

Major Mervyn Sydney Bobus Vernon, Tebury, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £2,160,850 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mrs Crystal Amy Bailey, of Enfield, Essex, £188,166.

Miss Lilian Mary Beale, of Blundells, Merseyside, £716,812.

Mr Clifford Sydney Coleman, London N20, £830,210.

Mr John Robertson Cury, of Virginia Water, Surrey, £996,857.

Mr Sidney Robert Fraser, of Elysian Place, London, SW3, £1,000,000.

Lily Vera Jones, of Bourne-mouth, Dorset, £513,636.

Mrs Eileen Margery Penn, London N2, £560,745.

Mr Derek Gordon Shaw, of Maiford, Kent, £1,005,263.

Mrs Florence Straton Smith, of Derby, £769,249.

Miss Pamela Styles of Plumpton, East Sussex, £648,518.

Mr George Townes of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, £565,253.

Mrs Kate Wilson of Gargrave, Wetherby, Yorkshire, £535,000.

Mr John Wilson of Gargrave, Wetherby, Yorkshire, £535,000.

Water meters may be imposed in homes

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

WATER meters may become compulsory in homes, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, indicated yesterday when the government set out its views on tackling water-supply problems in England and Wales.

Possible ways of saving water include restriction of lavatory flush capacity, fitting showers as well as baths in new homes, and restricting the amount of water used in washing machines and dishwashers.

Water companies may be given mandatory targets for reducing leaks, which at present account for 23.7 per cent of water put into the supply system, while industry may be required to recycle water. The National Rivers Authority could be asked to operate a new water tax on the amount taken from rivers and boreholes.

The government has launched a consultation document, *Using Water Wisely*, which makes it clear that strategy for the future will be based on demand management rather than new reservoirs or a national pipeline grid to transfer water from heavy-rainfall regions of the north and west to the increasingly parched south-east.

Mr Howard stopped short yesterday of a commitment to compulsory metering, but ministers are considering giving Ian Byatt, the director-general of water services, the power to require companies to introduce it.

Metering trials had shown significant reductions in water use, Mr Howard said, and the bills of 65 per cent of consumers had been the same or smaller. He agreed that mitigation of the effect on poor families would need attention.

Chris Smith, the Labour party's new shadow environment secretary, said that the extension of compulsory metering was simply not the answer. "Where pilot schemes have been introduced in areas like Blackburn, metering has nearly doubled water bills for large families with children."

Photograph, page 7

Choosing a cat of the bulldog breed



Next in line: a new member of staff is being trained for an important role at Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's former home in Kent, now owned by the National Trust (Alan Hamilton writes). Jock, shown on a mantelpiece below Sir Winston's portrait, is nine weeks old, ginger with white feet and chest, and will take up his post as official house cat just as soon as he has learnt to stop climbing the curtains. Sir Winston, an incorrigible cat lover,

expressed a wish that there should always be a ginger cat at Chartwell and the trust has meticulously observed the instruction since his death in 1965.

Jock is being reared in the top-floor apartment of Barry Knowles, the trust's resident custodian, and when he has attained a suitable standard of behaviour will be allowed to roam the main house while it is open to visitors. He is the third of his line, and was

chosen from a local litter after an exhaustive search for the candidate whose looks and colouring most closely matched those of the original.

Jock III succeeds Jock II, who died last summer at the ripe feline age of 16. Jock I was a gift to Sir Winston from his private secretary, Sir John Colville, or Jock to his intimates. Jock the cat led an even more privileged life than Jock the man, sleeping on his master's bed. He was not immune to

the great man's temper. Mrs Jean Broom, Chartwell administrator, recalls that Jock once scratched his master and Sir Winston shouted at it so vehemently that the cat spent several days in hiding. A remorseful Sir Winston instructed his secretary to place a notice in a downstairs window informing Jock that all was forgiven. The cat, having read the notice, strolled back and resumed his rightful position as head of the house.

Honecker arraigned over 49 Wall killings

Continued from page 1
He was "depressed but defiant", Herr Wolf, who was a prominent lawyer in the East, said a fair trial was impossible. "What we will witness will be a political and not a judicial trial," he said. "Western judges will be deciding on events which took place in East Germany when it was a sovereign and internationally recognised state. This is the rough justice of the colonisers toward the colonised."

He said that Herr Honecker had not returned voluntarily to Berlin, but been forced out of the Chilean embassy by German pressure on Patricio Aylwin, the Chilean president. President Yeltsin, according to Herr Honecker, did not reply to a final request for political asylum.

Comrade Margot, page 10
Germany on trial, page 12
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Tax reform may cut car costs

Continued from page 1

urers to consolidate discounts and sell for the first time on the basis of one fixed price.

Stephen Dorrell, the financial secretary to the Treasury, yesterday insisted that the proposals, which will be open for consultation with the industry and dealers until November, were aimed at determining a fair means of calculating the benefit in kind to drivers of company cars. But there is a clear underlying agenda in providing a tax framework which will encour-

age the use of more environmentally friendly cars by big fleet operators, who buy half the new cars sold in the UK annually and determine the pricing structure of manufacturers.

The Inland Revenue says that there are 1.9 million company cars which yield £1.4 billion a year for the Treasury plus another £470 million in National Insurance payments.

The industry has faced criticism that discounts offered to fleets are subsidised by pri-

vate buyers. There have also been two enquiries into UK pricing policies with the European Commission claiming that prices here are up to 40 per cent higher than in the cheapest European market.

Forcing manufacturers to offer fixed list prices which were the same for all buyers would delight consumer groups and stem the recent criticism from Sir Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner.

L & T section, page 7

Olympic sketch

Where grace is a matter of inches

It is time to start a Campaign for Real Women. I am not being sexist. I am being agnostic. I have been to the women's gymnastics (one sport not renowned for its indulgence in body-building steroids) and looked for women in vain. It seemed that the Humbert Humberts have had their way.

If you looked hard, among the oceans of girls strutting about with nose in the air, glaring at everyone with half-hooded eyes and carrying themselves rather like Carmen caught up in the St Trinians school treat, you could find the token woman, Svetlana Boginskaya. She is a giant of 5ft 4in, a crone of 19, and is regarded as yesterday's person. But if courage really is grace under pressure, Boginskaya is the most courageous athlete at the Games.

She is a Belorussian ("the sphinx from Minsk") and performs for the Unified team. And she does so under a great disadvantage: her height. One of her best rivals, Kim Zmeskal, the American, is three years her junior, 9in shorter, and a stone lighter at 5st 10lb. A child, in fact.

It is much harder for Boginskaya to perform the same moves. It is a fact of physics that size is crucial to aerial performance, but the sport seems not to have come to terms with this. Administrators should read the British scientist J. B. S. Haldane: "An angel whose muscles developed no more power weight for weight than those of an eagle or a pigeon would require a breast projecting for about 4ft to house the muscles engaged in working its wings."

A hypothetical gymnast twice as high, twice as wide and twice as thick as Zmeskal would have eight times the problem in defying gravity. If you find the maths elusive, imagine a heavyweight boxer such as George Foreman performing a simple aerial somersault. It would be an awesome sight. But a somersault is nothing to a skillful child.

When the same somersault is performed by the skillful child and by a woman 9in taller, it looks very different. It takes longer, for a start. The performance must be slower, the woman must spend more time in the air, it requires

proportionally greater skill and it looks incomparably more graceful.

Bela Karolyi, the former Romanian coach of the United States team, said: "I believe in the future we are going to see more powerhouses like Kim. It's the stronger, explosive, aggressive gymnasts who are winning."

Boginskaya won the all-round world championships in 1989, but Smeskal beat her into second place two years later, before a whooping crowd in Indianapolis. Boginskaya acted Carmen, half-hooded, her eyes refused to shake hands, was enthusiastically booed, and said afterwards: "It is 100 per cent I would have won if the championships had been held in Europe." There is, after all, a difference between grace and graciousness.

But the grace versus agility problem has been batted about in this sport since Olga Korbut backflipped on the beam at the 1972 Olympics. Olga did not win the all-round championship, the blue ribbon event, but her heirs have triumphed since then.

It is a problem, and I have the solution. George Foreman would not be permitted to fight a midge; he must fight another heavyweight. The same thinking should be applied to gymnastics. After all, this is the only sport in which a good little 'un will always beat a good big 'un.

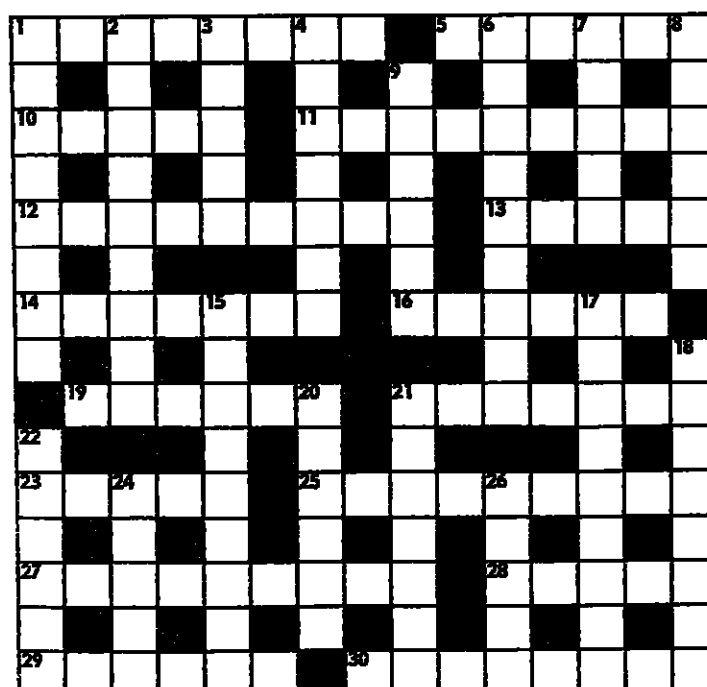
The answer is not weight categories but height categories. Divide the sport into three classes: say, under 5ft, 5ft to 5ft 4in, and 5ft 4in and taller. At a stroke this would bring women back to women's gymnastics, and with it grace as well as cleverness.

It is amazing that Boginskaya can compete at all at this level. She led the Unified team to the team gold this week, with particularly strong performances on the beam and, inevitably, on the vault. She is the only vaulter whose actual performances look like the action replay: even at speed, she is languid.

She looks like a Dostoyevskian bitch straight out from central casting. In this world of children, I would rather watch her fail than anyone else succeed.

SIMON BARNES

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,985



- ACROSS
- Support and help for action in court (8).
 - Boss preceding one round workshop (6).
 - Mound in excellent shape after fall (5).
 - Scorning South when in Northern region (9).
 - Making electrically safe after new dangerous incident (4,5).
 - Novel set in royal town (5).
 - Novelist and child, the epitome of happiness (7).
 - Tax is about one pound for a novel (6).
 - Plant is attached to runner, possibly (6).
 - Dickens in Marshalsea, for example (3,4).
 - Wash black arides (5).
 - George and I involved in car scheme (9).

- DOWN
- Sweetheart as affectionate as a TV character (9).
 - Dramatist's piece that's highly appreciated by players (5).
 - City's right half, outside left, score (6).
 - Fastening device on cooking-vessel for tribal feast (8).
 - Incidental actions of actor's company (8).
 - Manoeuvre it on with crane (9).
 - Elevate one of the Romans in legion (5).
 - Saintly characters are rarely disposed to behave thus (7).
 - One blows note in jazz orchestra section (5,4).
 - Abandon in the Channel (5).
 - Variety of crocus crops up (6).
 - Properly speaking, a ceremonial observance (6).
 - Authoritative book's a hit in parts of US (5,4).
 - Fish boy caught finally, like a splendid ray (9).
 - Playful bit of banter it's hard to follow (8).
 - Nominal hero mixed drinks (6).
 - Train wandering in circles in area around London (7).
 - End protest (6).
 - Aesthetic judgment society's required in gallery (5).
 - Quiet and noble girl, a paragon (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,984

FIREDOWN BALTIC
E A N L A H
ACQUAINTANCE
S O K W A K O S
CHINA INGLENT
O L B V T T I
W C U S I N E S S
U R T I A I R I O L Y
J U V E N I L A P L
S E V E N T E E N
D E S P O T S M I T T L E S
E S O E E L E
E L E V E N E N T A T E

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- MISPRISION
a. Neglect of duty
b. False imprisonment
c. A misunderstanding
COWAN
a. A Masque heretic
b. A Pacific shell
c. A drystone dike
PODOBROMIDROSIS
a. Smelly feet
b. Dehydration
c. Fear of thunder storms
ANUSIA
a. A talent to amuse
b. The inability to play or sing
c. A white lobelia

Answers on page 14

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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

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connotes figures are latest available

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

London 8.50 pm to 5.25 am
Bristol 9.50 pm to 5.34 am
Edinburgh 9.22 pm to 5.17 am
Manchester 9.06 pm to 5.25 am
Penzance 9.06 pm to 5.51 am

First quarter August 5

Sun rises: 5.23 am Sun sets: 8.50 pm

Moon rises: 7.40 am Moon sets: 9.13 pm

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia S	21.00	19.50
Austria Sch	61.55	57.15
Belgium Fr	2.09	2.09
Canada S	11.52	10.72
Denmark Kr	9.31	7.71
Finland Mk	7.11	6.36
France F	1.05	1.05
Germany DM	2.34	2.16
Greece Dr	354.00	333.00
Hong Kong	15.38	14.39
Ireland Pt	1.17	1.05
Italy Lit	2255.00	2100.00
Portugal Esc	252.00	243.00
Spain Ptas	167.75	154.75
Sweden Kr	10.51	10.11
Switzerland Fr	2.65	2.47
Turkey Lira	1410.00	1310.00
USA S	2.01	1.86
Yugoslavia Dnr	0.85	0.85

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Today's pollen count forecast is

HIGH

SELDANE

A major advance in hayfever treatment.

WEATHER

Dry and settled over the majority of England and Wales with some cloud in the west during the evening. South-east England and parts of East Anglia may have isolated thundery showers. Cloudy in western Scotland and Northern Ireland with outbreaks of rain extending eastwards during the afternoon and the wind strengthening from the south. Outlook: patchy rain tomorrow with brighter weather later, showers in north.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t-thunder, d-dizzle, f-fog, b-bus, s-sleet, m-moon, l-lar, c-cloud, v-vail

	C	F	M	C	F	M
Algeria	31	88	1	30	86	1
Alaska	29	84	1	28	82	1
Albania	28	82	1	27	81	1
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Algeria	28	82	1	27	81	1

ABROAD

	C	F	M	C	F	M
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HEALTH p5

Putting life's
pieces back
together after
a knife attack

MOTORING p7

Will K-day set
the industry
back on its
feet?

K682

LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY JULY 31 1992

A plucky man who made the grade

Michael Grade is in trouble yet again. But the head of Channel 4 still relishes the chance to protect the individual while entertaining the masses

The mystery is why anyone makes television programmes about Northern Ireland. "Viewers turn off at the very mention of the subject. The story has been going hopelessly round in circles for decades. There is no sex, no laughs, no charm, no hope. Getting anywhere near the truth is difficult, dangerous and prohibitively expensive."

These are the words of Liz Forgan, director of programmes at Channel 4, reflecting on the programme broadcast last October called *The Committee*. It alleged collusion between senior officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), loyalist terror gangs and prominent Unionists in the organised killing of Catholics, making use of a disguised informant known as Source A.

It went out in 1991, and neither viewers nor critics took much notice: but it has landed the Channel 4 executives in court this week with their very existence in jeopardy. Putting on programmes about Northern Ireland, says Michael Grade, the channel's chief executive, is "a very unrewarding process."

"There's nothing in it for us. We get no viewers, we get no thanks, there's no glory in it. I don't know why we do it. The answer is that it is the most important domestic story that's been running for 15 years or more, and if you want to be taken seriously, how can you ignore it?"

The public may have ignored it, but the RUC did not have refused to take part in the programme, the force denounced it. In the ensuing months, an 80-page dossier was handed over voluntarily by Channel 4 to the RUC, including transcripts of interviews. The RUC then invoked the Prevention of Terrorism Act to get the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to demand all the evidence, including names. But Box Productions, the small independent company which had made the programme, had given an undertaking that Source A, seen only in silhouette, would never be identified. Videos were destroyed and sensitive material moved abroad. If Source A's name were to be disclosed, Box Productions is convinced his life would be in danger.

For Channel 4, this is the day of judgment. Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Pill are expected to decide today whether Channel 4 is in contempt of court and, in theory, a recurring fine (and sequestration of assets) could be imposed until Channel 4 agrees to hand over the material. This is a highly serious situation for Mr Grade, who lists his sole recreation as "entertainment" to find himself in. It is a test case: the first time the act has been used in this way, to challenge the cherished principle of protecting anonymous sources. The Channel 4 board declares, unequivocally but "with the greatest regret", that it cannot go back on an undertaking given in good faith.

So Mr Grade and his colleagues have set in court hearing their counsel, Lord Williams (chairman of the Bar Council) and Jonathan Caplan, led the court that neither Channel 4 nor Box Productions seek the martyr's crown. According to Lord Williams, Channel 4 has already spent £50,000 on protecting Box Productions personnel, even moving them to new addresses, when death threats arrived.

Anonymous sources do invariably test credibility, as Mr Grade well knows. "You don't use lightly an anonymous source in a television documentary as important as that one. You don't rely on it without satisfying yourself that you can corroborate the information," he says. "Nobody outside television quite realises how strict the internal disciplines are when reporting on

politically sensitive areas. The Independent Television Commission (ITC) guidelines are much more exacting than anything that exists in the written press."

He has been in trouble over Northern Ireland before. In the 1970s, he had a run-in with the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) over a *Weekend World* report from the province by Mary Holland: somebody, he says, had clearly tried to discredit her with the IBA. "When the smear was put to me I just packed my briefcase and walked out. I was prepared to stand by her, as one of the very few journalists who have an understanding of Northern Ireland. I was fairly green at the time: it was my first bleeding. I wish I could remember what the programme was about."

Mr Grade is a man of easy charm who enjoys a remarkable popularity in his company and outside. It is no surprise to find him wearing his habitual red socks and smoking a fat Lew Grade-sized cigar. The pellicled blueness of his eyes is also very striking. His cool grey office has four televisions, one on each channel; Channel 4 is showing a doughnut factory.

This week's hearing follows hard on the discussion of press freedom largely centring on its right to disseminate scandal. Mr Grade said he would have had no hesitation in publishing both the Princess of Wales and the David Mellor material, as long as he was satisfied that the material stood up to scrutiny and was legally obtained.

"I still go along with the maxim Publish and Be Damned," he says. He learnt the trade under Hugh, now Lord, Cudlipp (an old friend of his father, Leslie) who gave him a job as a sports reporter on the *Daily Mirror* when he was 17 and had decided that, after A-levels in French and English, that was enough studying. "Hugh was a great tabloid journalist, the Kelvin MacKenzie of his day. Tabloid scandal exposure has long been with us: remember Keeler and Profumo on the front page of the *Express*, a brilliant piece of journalism, Lord Lambton... there's nothing new about it. The difference today is that the royals are no

longer a no-go area. I myself have been the subject of endless speculation in the gossip columns, very painfully over the years, and I never complain. I am not a public-elected official, where it might be in the public interest to know about my private life: but I have never sued.

"I have benefited over the years from a level of publicity, however painful it is on occasions. Only once, last year, when the *Daily Mail* did a three-page feature on me which was quite the most painful thing I've ever read, about my mother, my sister, my ex-wives... for about three minutes I thought of going to the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). But I didn't."

At 49 Mr Grade has had two wives: Penny Levinson, mother of their daughter Alison, Cambridge graduate and last year's *Deb of the Year*, and son, Jonathan; and Sarah Lawson. But, as he once said, he found marriage interfered with work. When the telephone rang during our interview and he addressed the caller as "sweetheart", I surmised the call was from Linda Cierach, maker of the Duchess of York's wedding gown, with whom he now shares his house in Hampstead.

He was brought up — his mother having left home when he was a baby — by his famously wonderful grandmother, Olga Winogradsky ("Bless her") the widowed mother of the three dancing brothers, Leslie and Lew Grade and Bernie Delfont. Intensely proud and adoring of all the men in her life, she lived to her nineties. In her flat at Marble Arch, where Michael grew up, watching television was not only allowed but obligatory. It was the family business.

In those days there was still a "toddler's" hour when children were supposed to be put to bed, between six o'clock and the *Tonight* programme. Now he scorns this "patrician" supervision of the nation's domestic habits and regards the Broadcasting Standards Council as a manifestation of this. "The arrogance of saying, 'We can look at

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



these programmes and not be affected, but other people might be."

I mention that the 9pm watershed can be a tough deadline. "I accept the watershed. But it's down to parents: it's your responsibility. It's not our fault if you renege on that. Your fears as a parent are about having to explain things to children that you would rather not."

"You should see the phone-calls we get about tampon advertisements. I read the duty log first thing every morning and it is absolutely staggering. 'Pumping this stuff into our living rooms! How do I explain to my child? Nothing provokes the British public more than two things: cruelty to animals, and tampons. Tampons are far worse than condoms. It's extraordinary. We all know it's as natural as having a pee. You sneeze, you blow your nose, you go

to the loo, and women menstruate from a certain age. By and large the public accepts that most people go to the loo. But any mention of menstruation gets the British public into a state of apoplexy."

He went briefly to Stowe, famed for its Palladian architecture and beautiful gardens with lake and follies, but in his second term he rang his father to say he'd had enough, and his dad took him out at once. "Now they claim me as an Old Stowe since I am doing so well."

He still follows Charlton Athletic, "languishing on the verge of bankruptcy". Is he not rich enough to rescue them? "I'm absolutely broke," he says, wide-eyed. "I've never been motivated by money. I've always backed off from making enormous sums. Nothing could be as much fun as this."

He has had two pure showbiz periods, outside British television: once in Hollywood, with "eight" Hi honey, I'm home sitcoms on the air in one week", and before that a few years as an agent when he was schooled in the true Grade reverence for the star performer.

He told the Royal Television Society in a speech last year about booking Judy Garland, shortly before she died, into the *Talk of the Town*. He described the lengths they had to go to to get her on stage every night in one presentable piece. "Our job is to make it all look good. You don't say to Charlie Chaplin, 'We don't like your moustache'. Call me old-fashioned, but it's talent that pays our wages."

He remains exhilarated by the breath of freedom he felt on leaving the BBC, where he rose to be director of television programmes.

"You are much more arm's length from Parliament. It does make life more clear cut. You don't have that argument about 'we don't give you this money to do that'. The ITC is independent of the whim of government. Its record in defence of programme makers stands head and shoulders above that of the governors of the BBC. I don't think the IBA would have any problem with *Real Lives*. No broadcast-

ing body has been subjected to more pressure than the IBA was over *Death on the Rock*, no programme has been subjected to greater scrutiny, and the Windlesham report, which the government rubbished before they'd read it, decided that the programme stood up. I can think of many journalistic exercises in newspapers that would have crumbled under that kind of scrutiny."

He recalls only once exercising editorial judgment on a Channel 4 programme. "It was about Bomber Harris, and seemed to me fatally flawed: they used an actor to dramatise a fictionalised account of his views, intercut with eye-witness testimony from people who lived in Dresden. It seemed loaded, and irredeemably unfair."

"Newspapers can plug an editorial line: television does not. The reasons for that are plain to see. We are given the custodianship of a resource of the nation, the terrestrial air waves, a finite resource, and have to behave impartially. We do not have the freedom the press has to be the captives of a particular political line or to comment editorially. I accept that. With that go many layers of regulation and real sanctions — not like the toothless PCC."

"I have lived through many battles with the forces of regulation, but the ITC and the IBA have always been more enlightened and robust. The BBC governors were a pretty horrendous bunch when I was there. They gave me a hard time over *Tommy*: they were pretty desperate for me not to make it, or to make the Ian Curtis play about the Falklands, which I didn't think was worth £1 million of licence payers' money. But it didn't stop them taking bows when *Tommy* won the Bafta award."

When he went to Channel 4 he was feared as a populist and downmarker. "The people who were critical of my appointment did not understand me or what I stood for. They were slaves to an easy caricature. I am a professional broadcaster. At the BBC I did what was required [*Neighbours*, *EastEnders*] and at Channel 4 I fell in with the style of the place. I am a good delegator. I am not an autocrat: that is the antithesis of my management style."

The way to success is to pick very good people and let them feed ideas upwards. I don't think I could ever have launched the channel. That needed vision, and a style which is alien to me, but which Jeremy [Isaacs] had in abundance. But I think I was the right person to take it over, to develop and mature it and professionalise it, to prepare us for the scrutiny it came under with the Broadcasting Bill."

The bill charges Channel 4, which will become an independent corporation in 1993, with responsibility for innovation and experiment. Mr Mellor, then with the Home Office, had not been exactly an ally, he says: they had had terrific arguments about the impartiality clauses, but Mr Mellor had at least pushed through concessions from Mrs Thatcher. "He's a good listener and is open to persuasive argument. He has a lawyer's mind."

He does admire the legal brain. "Barristers really are actors, aren't they? I remember at LWT in 1979 when we had done what became known as *Snatch of the Day*, and had won the football contract. We were faced with litigation three over. We had a long day's consultation with a leading silk — it was Sam Stammers — and at five o'clock he took from his drawer a bottle, poured us all a large whisky, and proceeded to dictate a 15-page memo summarising all the options, recommending courses of action, referring back and forth, off the top of his head, and never drew breath. I thought that's superior intelligence. Brilliance. Real skill. Pure genius."

Andrew Collins QC (son of the late Canon) has also been eloquent in court for the DPP, averring that those who choose to investigate terrorism must recognise the obligation to hand over names of those involved to the authorities. But it is not that simple. Channel 4's choice is to break the law or put individuals' lives in certain danger: it is this dilemma that Mr Grade hopes the two learned judges will acknowledge.

TOMORROW

In Weekend Times:
Sailing — Neil Lyndon learns the ropes

"Our job is to make it all look good. Call me old-fashioned, but it's talent that pays our wages": Michael Grade lights up a trademark cigar the size of a submarine, and reviews his credits



PETER TRUWICK

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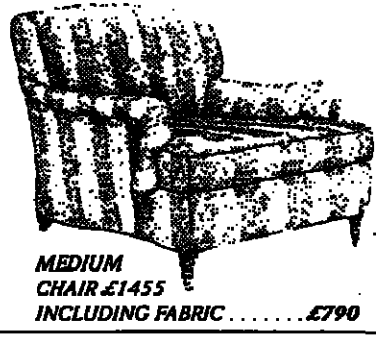
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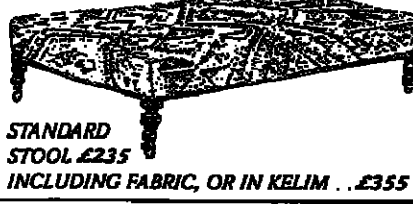
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A serious game of hide-and-seek

London Galleries: Richard Cork enters the infantile/adult world of conceptual artist Annette Messager

Unlike most artists, who insist on stamping their work with a single, clearly defined identity, Annette Messager thrives on images of a contradictory and fragmented self. Her multi-faceted show at the Camden Arts Centre is impossible to pin down and challenges us to locate a style, medium or meaning which reveals the "real" Messager.

As early as 1972, this elusive Paris-based artist dramatised her search for a definable persona. Or rather, she revealed how easily her individuality fractured even when experimenting with writing her own name. Like an eager yet tormented adolescent, she set out on a quest to find "my best signature". The venture ended up covering 2,000 obsessive pages, a selection of which is ranged across one of the exhibition's white walls.

A definitive autograph failed to emerge, but Messager discovered a prodigious array of alternatives as she toyed so inventively with ever more fanciful combinations of the same two words.

Her favourite turned out to be a distinctly phallic form, made from the initials AM. At once erotic and ironic, it sums up the edgy sense of humour which runs through this diverting yet unsettling show.

Messager constantly confounds lazy expectations and throws us off balance with her half-beguiling, half-disconcerting manoeuvres. Take the extraordinary photo-work called *Voluntary Tortures*, which helped to establish her reputation in 1972. She assembles a collection of magazine cuttings, all revealing the rituals to which women submit themselves in search of smooth, slumped-down flesh. A naked body reclines under a fearsome battery of lamps, like a humiliated victim undergoing some ghastly examination. Another figure stares down at the repellent metallic device clamped to her breast, while elsewhere a towel-turbaned woman lies

in a bath attached to a macabre bank of electronic dials. Perhaps the weirdest aspect of the entire work rests in the unconvincing efforts made to persuade the viewer that these processes are pleasurable. One face grins rigidly through the bandages swathing her features, and a haughty woman poses in triumph with plaster smeared over her skin.

In *My Advances*, Messager plays the role of a voyeur shooting unknown men in the street with a telephoto lens. The handwritten captions beneath the pictures are prim and quaint, commenting on the clothes they wear. But the photographs tell a different story, closing in so brazenly on the crotch level that the trousers all grow blurred.

Just as we imagine that the elusive artist has disclosed her most private longings, however, she changes direction altogether. Neatly framed, attractively coloured pictures fill a wall with irreproachable images of blissful tourist scenes. An ideal couple gaze at one another before a lurid sunset, while around them a cornucopia of equally kitsch images offer clichés such as the ocean liner, the American Indian chieftain and the inevitable pyramids. Messager forces us to overdose on the packaged unreality of holiday brochures.

But she does not linger in this saccharine realm for long. The largest gallery contains at its centre a constellation of photographs called *My Wishes*. Suspended on strings pinned to the top of the room divider, they appear to be plummeting towards the floor like a burned-out meteor hurtling earthwards. But there is nothing terminal about the images. Piled on top of and around each other, the small black-and-white photographs contain parts of the human body. The wrinkled foreheads, thinning scalps and crinkled buttocks on show here indicate that Messager is unafraid to acknowledge physical imperfection.

But the cumulative effect is unmistakably erotic. Tongues project from mouths, nipples vie for attention with ears, penises and stubby chins. They all seem to clamour for attention, turning us into voyeurs and at the same time bearing out Messager's realisation that "I always perceive the body in fragments... when you make love you only see parts of the body of the other, vague close-ups, you don't see everything."

Nothing in Messager's work is ever straightforward, however. Just as we are about to conclude that the bundle of corporeal desires in *My Wishes* is celebratory, she makes us aware of a darker side to the work. The proliferation of images becomes oppressive, even threatening. In the ceaselessly deceptive world she creates, the most innocent object turns out to convey an unexpected sting. One exhibit relies for much of its



Playfulness and melancholy run hand in hand: *Story of Little Effigies*, 1990, by Annette Messager at the Camden Arts Centre

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impact on a series of woollen gloves spread along a wide wall. But they are all impaled on pikes, as if placed there by some gory executioner. And each glove contains holes, through which peer the eyes and noses of unidentifiable animals.

Creatures associated with the nursery take on, here, a significance more akin to adult anxieties. Messager is fascinated by the interplay between childhood and later life. She refuses to regard them as separate areas of experience, and their relationship provides her work with some of its most startling moments.

In *Attack of the Coloured Crayons*, a battalion of pencils thrust aggressively from holes puncturing the wall. They aim themselves at us like rifles at a public execution. Over in a corner, in an exhibit called *Story of Little Effigies*, a heap of children's toy animals looks as inert and humiliated as corpses abandoned

after a massacre. The glass boxes ranged above them contain dolls' clothes, but each one is accompanied by a photograph of a finger painted with a clownish figure, a bed or a boat.

Playfulness and melancholy run hand in hand, as Messager defies us to sort out the dominant emotion. The answer is that she thrives on a constant oscillation between contrasting poles of feeling, nowhere more ambiguously than in a work called *Stories and Narratives*. As the title suggests, books play an important part here. Underneath an ample, recessed window area in the last gallery, stacks of English paperbacks alternate with piles of discarded teddy-bears and other remnants from the playpen. The juxtaposition appears lighthearted enough, until we realise that the stuffed rabbit, hen, duck, squirrel and mouse perched on top are all blindfolded. In the most elaborate exhibit

Messager makes her preoccupation with mortality explicit. Glass boxes cover the whole of one large wall, resembling see-through coffins lodged in a cemetery chapel. They all contain clothes, laid out with fetishistic reverence.

A black dress is festooned with little framed drawings of skeletal remains, while a neighbouring garment provides a backdrop for photographs of couples kissing and hugging. Words are used in a similar way, covering one pink dress with letters spelling out "Innocence" and another with "Doubts". Between these two Blake-like alternatives, Messager nourishes her work with a perpetually questioning awareness of ecstasy and suffering, optimism and disillusion, sensuality and the tomb.

Telling Tales at the Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 (071-435 2643). Tues-Thurs 12-8pm, Fri-Sun 12-6pm, until August 30

GALLERY CHOICE

● **MIRO SCULPTURES:** The centenary of Joan Miro's birth falls next year but is being celebrated by the Edinburgh Festival this year. Miro is primarily known as a painter, but in his later years especially he became interested in sculpture, and all 72 sculptures in the show were made between 1962 and 1978: all of them come on loan from the Fondation Maeght in St-Paul-de-Vence. His rich vein of surrealist fantasy and bounding invention with shape and colour are all in evidence here as much as in his paintings. Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh (031-225 6671). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, until September 20. Admission £3 concessions £1.50. Opens today.

● **PETER COKER:** In the Fifties, his aesthetic was very similar to the "Kitchen Sink" painting of John Brabry. Edward Middleditch and Jack Smith. Now an RA, he has continued along the same lines, and the continuity in this touring retrospective of his landscapes is remarkable between the paintings of Epping Forest in the late Sixties and those painted in the Western Isles only last year. Abbott Hall Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria. (0539 723464). Mon-Fri 10.30am-5.30pm, Sat, Sun 2-5pm, until October 25.

● **IMPRESSIONS OF VENICE:** Between Turner and Monet, innumerable artists went to Venice and recorded what they saw. This show comes up with eight winners, starting with Bonington's visit to Venice in 1827 and concluding with Monet's two months painting there in 1908. Those in between include Sickert and Sargent and the photographer Alvin Langdon Coburn. The core of the show comes from the extraordinary collections of the National Museum of Wales.

Amguedfa'r Gogledd, Llanberis, Gwynedd (0286 870636) Daily 9.30am-6pm (5pm after September 15), until September 20.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Live music on licensed premises is subject to archaic regulations which must go, argues Clive Davis

When two's company, but three constitutes unlawful assembly



Rival attractions: Trevor Kaye plays saxophone alongside a pinball machine in a Brighton pub

Philistine, unfair, unreasonable. These are some of the more polite — and printable — descriptions of the law governing performances of live music in a pub, hotel or restaurant. If you want an earthier adjective, ask a musician.

Performers have been complaining about the system for years. Now they have the support of Westminster's All-Party Parliamentary Jazz Group. The group this week requested a meeting with ministers in order to outline the case for reform.

At present a proprietor who wants to stage live performances by more than two musicians has to go through the often convoluted and expensive process of applying for an entertainment licence from the local authority. Yet no such requirement applies to, say, a duo reproducing the sound of a heavy metal band with the help of high-tech keyboards and percussion. You can stage strip-tease shows without an entertainment licence, but heaven help you if you try to expose your clientele to the depravities of a string quartet or a jazz trio.

Even a sing-song, that most spontaneous of artistic endeavours, can be in breach of the law, as the barman of a Brighton pub discovered last year. Michael Parkinson was fined £151 by magistrates for failing to stop two customers

joining in with a folk duo. The two non-professionals had made the mistake of picking up instruments brought along by the musicians. A prosecution soon followed. As Bernard Levin observed at the time in his column: "There will always be mean, pompous, absurd, self-regarding, killjoy nerds."

According to Trevor Kaye, a Brighton saxophonist who has launched CALM, the Campaign for Live Music, the roots of the problem go back to legislation passed in the 19th century. Victorian lawmakers, he says, equated live music with dancing, treating it as a health-and-safety issue.

The principle has been passed on in subsequent laws — most recently the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1982. Proprietors who apply for a licence

(which can cost hundreds of pounds, according to the size of the venue) may be obliged to pay for costly refurbishments, such as supported floors and shatter-proof glass in windows, even though they have no intention of presenting music for dancing.

"The law is being applied on a hypothetical basis, on an assumption that something is going to happen which actually does not," Kaye argues. "People don't go to the pub with the expectation of dancing. I believe that live music contributes to an atmosphere in which people are better behaved. I think it has a controlling influence on people because it requires a degree of attention. That's why I call my campaign CALM."

Kaye took his case to the Parliamentary Jazz Group last year. The group's secretary,

Labour MP Stuart Randall, believes that the current state of affairs is "absolutely crazy". He says: "Jazz is particularly affected by the two-musician law. The great thing about this sort of music is that people can come together spontaneously — they often don't know what they're going to play until they get up there. Local authorities must retain some powers to prevent abuses in terms of noise, for instance. But we need to remove the absurdities in the law."

In February, Randall and colleagues including the Tory William Cash and the Liberal Democrat Menzies Campbell tabled a Commons "early day" motion calling for a change in the "completely outdated restrictions". The motion pointed out that "modern technology enables almost

exactly the same sound levels to be produced whether by live musician or record, tape, compact disc or other electronic means."

The campaigners can take heart from the experience of jazz musicians and sympathisers in New York, who recently overturned similar restrictions. New York's venues were subject to a complex licensing and zoning system introduced during Prohibition, more than 60 years ago. From 1940 to 1967 musicians were also only allowed to work in the city's clubs if in possession of a "cabaret card", a fingerprinted identity document. Billie Holiday and Thelonious Monk were among the performers who fell foul of this rule.

The campaign to dismantle the regulations is described in

Gigs, an absorbing account by Paul Chevigny, Professor of Law at New York University and spare-time jazz buff. Chevigny took up the cause of the musicians in the mid-Eighties when he discovered that one of his favourite haunts, a neighbourhood café which staged low-budget recitals by top players, was in breach of laws which permitted only canned music or "incidental music" by a trio of keyboards and strings.

After a long series of court appearances, Chevigny and his team finally had the three-musician rule declared unconstitutional in 1988. The zoning laws were relaxed two years later.

Chevigny feels that jazz was a victim of the city elite's disdainful attitude to "vernacular" music: "The people who ran this city didn't conceive of art and entertainment as a group of people coming together in a neighbourhood, maybe for little money."

"And they're snobs besides, of a very lower-middlebrow sort. If it's not Beethoven, well, it's not art."

TELEVISION REVIEW

Near miss, unfortunately

Lucky/Chances
ITV

At last, the poor man's *Godfather*. The second episode of *Lucky/Chances*, the Jackie Collins mini-series, ended last night with a murder (just as the first episode had done), and the promise of a nail-biting conclusion to the saga of three generations of the rich and glamorous Santangelo clan. Doubtless viewers across the land will be uncorking bottles to loud cheers tonight, as this four-and-a-half-hour ordeal for television is put out of its misery.

By my calculations, forty-odd years have passed since we first met the spectacularly dim Santangelo patriarch, Gino, earning a few bucks selling booze during Prohibition. Or does it just feel like forty years? Hard to tell, since this maxi-budget, mini-intellect dramatisation of two blockbusters has marked the passing of time by changing its characters' hairdos.

Hence, as the years went by and Gino clawed his way out of underworld obscurity to become a millionaire hotelier (how?), so the makeup team scurried behind sprinkling flour in his hair to simulate the onset of age. Carrie, the black hooker with a habit (whom kind-hearted Gino protected from evil pimp White Jack,

traded in an Afro-cut for what appeared to be a cat sitting on her head. Well, she had to. During the commercial break, she'd become a sophisticate. Unlike the hapless Gino, who was having no end of bother with Enzo, his old partner, now a drug baron and general bad lot, and with his feisty daughter, Lucky. Amazingly, nobody bothered to ask Gino why he had given his daughter such a stupid name (why not Frisky or Fido?). But I suppose anything's possible in a programme directed by someone called Buzz Kulik.

Lucky, who was, of course, "just like her old man" — stubborn, had been expelled from school and headed for St Tropez to do "le twist", flicking her long mane of straight hair all the way. But eventually, all passion spent, it was back to Vegas to help the old man with the family business and pout a lot during rows. "I ain't no lady, I'm a Santangelo," she yelled, flicking her freshly-permed hairdo in her father's direction.

Desperate attempts have been made to introduce a subplot. This involves Carrie's lawyer son Stephen and his sappy friends who are supposed to be ordinary folks struggling to be successful. It ain't easy, of course. Nor is it easy to believe that Stephen is Gino's love-child.

Things have got nasty from time to time. Gino's wife, son and most trusted henchman all met sticky ends at the hands of the gravelly-voiced Enzo — who would remind his former partner periodically that they had "grown up together on da street". This seemed to do the trick. Gino suspected nothing until late in last night's episode, when his daughter, by now almost as exasperated as the audience, took the plunge and shot Enzo dead.

There has not been a jot of irony or self-mockery in the more than three hours of ludicrous tale-telling so far. This really is the muddled, selfish fantasy world Jackie Collins wants us all to long for. Most wretched of all was the sight of the excellent David McCallum playing a bit part and occasionally glancing to camera as if to say, "Can I go now?" I knew how he felt.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

RETURN TO THE
FORBIDDEN PLANET
By Bob Carlton

1990'S OLIVIER AWARD WINNER
BEST MUSICAL

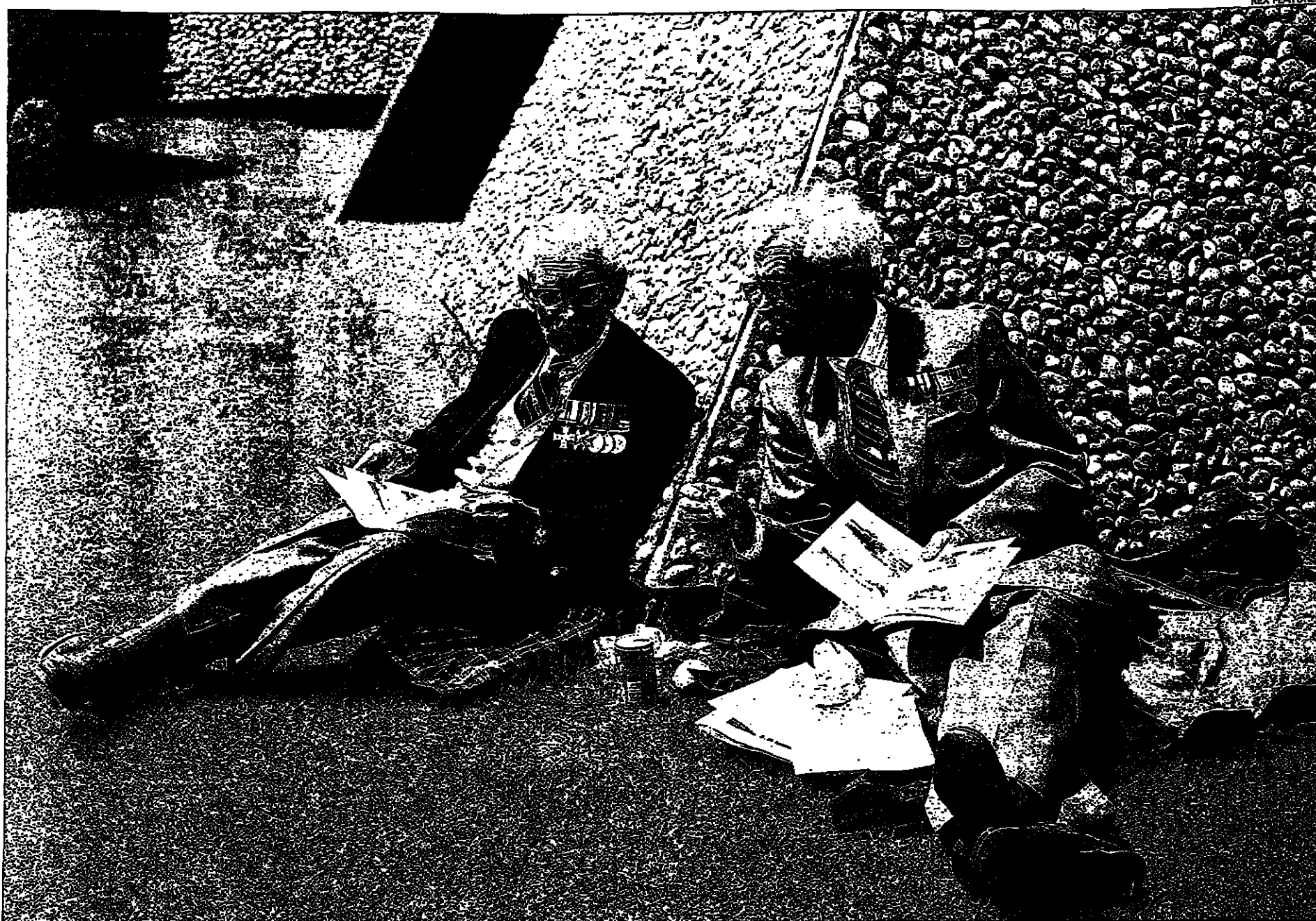
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Beach-heads revisited



Lest we forget: veterans remember their fallen comrades — next month Britons and Canadians will be pouring into Normandy to commemorate the ill-fated Dieppe raid

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

FIFTY years ago, on the bright morning of August 19, 1942, troops of the 2nd Canadian Division, supported by three British commando units, attempted a coup de main against the German-held port of Dieppe. Operation Jubilee, the disastrous Dieppe raid of 1942, was later described as a "reconnaissance in force", while Lord Louis Mountbatten, then Chief of Combined Operations, declared that "the battle of D-Day was won on the beaches of Dieppe".

The men involved in the fighting that morning saw it rather differently. Jim Hefferson, a blinded sergeant of the Royal Marines, who found himself crawling about on the shore of Dieppe among dead and dying Canadian infantry, described it to me as "the biggest cock-up since the Somme".

And yet, and yet... in spite of all the tragedies that happened there, the battlefields of France, and in particular those of the Great War and the second world war, still exercise a powerful fascination. The Canadians will be pouring into Dieppe next month, to join the French and the old Commandos in ceremonies along that fatal stretch of shingle, and if some of the German defenders were to turn up as well, they would be made welcome. Less welcome would be the self-appointed warriors of the battlefield re-enactment groups who have taken to joining private veteran ceremonies.

Next month's ceremonies at Dieppe are the opening shots in a campaign that will go on until June 6, 1994, the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day, the Normandy invasion. Plans to commemorate this event are now being laid on both sides of the Channel, and veterans from every corner of the world, but especially the United States, Canada and Britain, will be returning to the French beaches and parachute drop zones where they landed in 1944. In the meantime, battlefield tours will continue to thrive.

The largest company running such tours is Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours, of Sandwich, in Kent. A varied 1992 programme includes visits to the site of the Amiens prison raid of 1944 (three

As the 50th anniversary of the Dieppe raid approaches, Robin Neillands trains his sights on the boom in battlefield tours

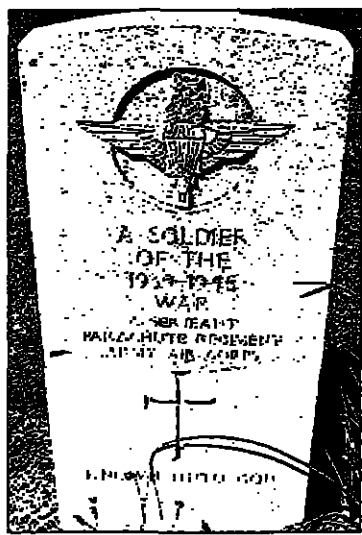
days for £211), three days along the 1916, Somme battlefield (from £209), and various tours to other battlefields, including the D-Day beaches.

Since many of their clients come back repeatedly, the Hols find that new tours are always in demand. This year's choice, therefore, included an "Oh What a Literary War" tour to the battlefields of Loos and the Somme, as well as a visit to the base depot at Etaples. This tour will be spiced with readings and recitations from Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves, Edmund Blunden and the other war poets. Operation Overlord, the D-Day landings of 1944, is a permanent draw and the Hols' "Six Days above Overlord" tour is a comprehensive guide, though it concentrates on the British beaches and drop zones rather than those of the Americans and Canadians.

A typical battlefield tour is made by coach and accompanied by an expert, perhaps a veteran of the battle, perhaps a staff member from some military institution such as the Imperial War Museum. On our visit to the prison at Amiens, the tour was accompanied by Brad King, of the Imperial War Museum, who gave a number of lectures and showed archive film. Among the clients was former Flight-Lieutenant Cecil Dunlop, who flew in the first wave of aircraft to breach the prison wall. During the tour, sites are visited, tactics and strategy explained, brave deeds remembered and wreaths laid. As a bonus there are good hotels, first class meals and the company of like-minded people.

Galina Battlefield Tours, of Hull, has a similar mix in its 1992 programme, plus a few specials. One of its offerings is a battlefield archaeology tour to Flanders and the Somme and a special tour for the Green Howards to the scenes of their campaign in France in 1940. Canadians are catered for with a visit to Vimy Ridge near Arras, the scene of bitter fighting in 1917, while this September sees another of Galina's regular visits to the Somme, four days for £169.

The Somme is a brooding part of



Every spring the ploughs bring up a fresh harvest of shells, which lie in little rusting piles awaiting the bomb disposal teams

France. Eighty years of ploughing have not yet erased the signs of war from the landscape. Every spring the ploughs bring up a fresh harvest of shells, which lie in little rusting piles beside the road, awaiting the attention of the bomb disposal teams.

Other signs are more obvious, more meaningful to the few remaining veterans and the growing number of visitors who have taken the trouble to read up on what happened here. The Golden Virgin of Albert still overlooks the battlefield; the great Lochnagar crater, blown in by German front line at 7.30am on July 1, 1916 still gapes beside the village of La Boisselle. Among villages whose

names are recorded on countless flags and war memorials — Thiepval, Mametz, Fricourt, Beaumont Hamel, Ovillers — lie the tumbled remains of trench systems, sunken valleys where a regiment went down. Most of all there are the cemeteries, scores of them.

The majority of the battlefield tour operators run trips to the Somme, including Martin Middlebrook, whose book, *The First Day of the Somme* is the definitive study of the battle. Other Martin Middlebrook tours take in the battlefields of Arras and Verdun. Mr Middlebrook accompanies most of the tours and takes the visitors round all the sites, four to five days at prices from £175-£245. These tours are for non-smokers only.

Newer and more flexible than organised tours are the battlefield tour tapes produced by the broadcaster Keith Howell for Britany Ferries. These tape cassettes, designed to be played through the car radio, feature two tours: the Pegasus trail tape covers the operations of the British 6th Airborne Division on D-Day, and coming next year will be another dealing with the British and Canadian landings on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches.

On each tape, Mr Howell gives an outline of the battle and tells the driver where to go and when to park. Then the veterans come on the air to describe what happened to them at that spot. The tapes can be purchased from the reservations department of Britany Ferries, on board the ships or from the ferry terminals at Portsmouth, Ouistreham or Cherbourg.

P & O Ferries also runs private tours to the Somme and the package includes a well illustrated guidebook to the battlefields and memorials, a tape of first world war songs and, in case you have forgotten or never knew the words of "Mademoiselle from Armentières", a song sheet. The price for two nights, including ferry crossings and the information pack, is £85. Subsequent nights from £22, bed and breakfast.

Many people return to France each year on personal or family pilgrim-

ages. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has details of 574,879 war graves in France and will provide full location details to relatives, if it is given sufficient information; the name, rank and regiment are usually enough.

This year as every year, the mayors of Normandy and Picardy will be getting out their sashes to welcome back parties of veterans, many of whom have been returning to these quiet towns and small villages year after year, to renew friendships forged in the fighting of fifty years ago. Most beautiful of all the cemeteries, perhaps, is the American military cemetery above Omaha beach in Normandy. More than 9,000 men lie buried here, many of whom fell on D-Day, and their memorial chapel bears some simple advice for all visitors: "Think not only of their passing. Remember the glory of their spirit."

Information from: French government tourist office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. Information on the D-Day 50th anniversary commemorations: Southern Tourist Board, (0703 620006) or M J-C Demais, Comité Régional de Tourisme, 14 rue Charles Corbeau, F-27000 Evreux, France. Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours, 15 Market Street, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9DA (0304 612248). P & O European Ferries short breaks, Channel House, Channel View Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 9TJ (0304 203388). Britany Ferries, Portsmouth (0705 827701). Martin Middlebrook's Battlefield Tours, Boston, Lincoln, (0205 364555). Galina, International Battlefield Tours Hull, (0482 804409). The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlborough Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 7DX (0628 34221).

Useful books include: *The First day on the Somme* by Martin Middlebrook (Viking Penguin), *Before the Endless Road*, (After the Battle, Church House, Church Street, London E15 3JA, £9.95), and *Holt's Visitors Guide to the Normandy Beaches*, by Major and Mrs Holt (Moorland Books, £8.95).

Properties of the week

FRANCE

WHAT YOU CAN GET FOR £39,000 TO £43,000



This attractive stone house, for sale at £39,600 (including agency and notary fees), is situated near the village of Perpezac le Blanc, close to the old market town of Obijac in the Corrèze, not far from the border with the Dordogne. Allow about eight hours for the drive from Calais. Alternatively, you can fly to Brive.

The property has been partially renovated, with a new roof, woodwork and floors, but needs another £15,000 spent on rewiring, replumbing and plastering. It has a large living room, kitchen, bathroom/WC and three bedrooms, and comes with a quarter of an acre of garden and breathtaking views. The UK agent is La Collection Française, 66 High Street, Manton, Marlborough, Wiltshire (0672-516266).



With £43,000 to spend in the Dordogne, you can buy this restored "ferme" (farm cottage), a few miles from Mussidan, about seven hours' drive from the Normandy port of Caen (Ouistreham).

Built in local stone, with a terracotta tiled roof, the property has all modern comforts. It comprises a dining room, with corner kitchen, open fireplace and french windows leading to a covered terrace; a small living room, two bedrooms and a bathroom on the ground floor; a third bedroom and study area upstairs. The price includes an attached garage and a small outbuilding.

The UK agent is Barbers, 427-429 North End Road, Fulham, SW6. (071-381 0112).

Also offered for £43,000, this renovated village house (it was once the village bakery), not far from the medieval market town of Mirepoix in the Ariège, a sparsely populated agricultural département in the foothills of the Pyrenees.

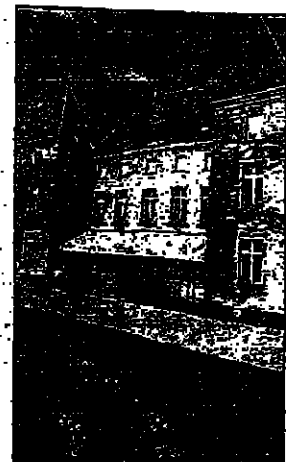
It has eight bedrooms, modernised fitted kitchen, bathroom/WC, playroom and a large living room, with an old bread oven and comes with outbuilding, gardens and wonderful views. The airport at Toulouse is 90 minutes' drive and the Mediterranean coast can be reached in two hours. UK agent: Sifer, Phoenix House, 76 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-384 1200).

CHERYL TAYLOR

TOMORROW

FOR the first time Relais & Châteaux and The Times have devised a Passport to France offer which is exclusive to readers of The Times who are travelling to France. In this Saturday's Weekend Times, 42 non-seasonal hotels of distinction and character, which are able to provide the highest standards at an all-inclusive rate, are available. Each of the selected hotels will offer a VIP welcome for two people, with a gastronomic dinner, accommodation and breakfast at 30 per cent below the normal tariff. The majority of

Relais & Châteaux hotels are to be found in unspoilt countryside. In addition to a listing of participating



hotels, readers will receive a complimentary copy of the Relais & Châteaux Guide and a European road map.

Love, oh love, oh hopeless love



Cooper: ideal experience

Centuries after they stopped exchanging hostages and princes, France and England took to exchanging children instead, on the principle that living en famille was the best and safest way to learn the language young. The uncensored memories of the exchanges, however, suggest that it is not necessarily the least alarming.

The snapshots are brief and vivid. One boy, trembling through winter nights in a vast and draughty chateau in the Pyrenees, found his nights broken by terrible crashes and thuds. It was the bricks. Each member of the household retired to bed with a brick, heard in the ancestral ovens and wrapped in cotton rags. "One by one, they got cold, and people kicked them out," Eileen Kleinsmide discovered, rather late, that "The bedspread on my vast double bed was made from the skins

of 42 'chats'. Jane Paterson, in a small village, learned to spend every evening with the family 'sitting outside their house, greeting their friends going in and out of the antique pissoir in the square'. Freda Craven arrived late at night, and was shown through what she thought was "the entrance to the first house in a street". She awoke to find it a chateau occupying three sides of a square.

Lisa Eveleigh led a rather more sophisticated teenage exchange life, full of "rather strange afternoon parties where everyone got on molyettes and went to some-

FRANCE
FIRST IMPRESSIONS

and served for dinner. And here her handsome collegien exchange, Jean, taught her to drive. "both of us in the driving seat, scattering the chickens in the street". She married an Englishman, though, and he an American; later her daughter and his children got together, but the only report from her daughter was that Jean was "a fat, ageing, amorous Frenchman". Now 85 and widowed, she decided ruefully to forgo a recent chance of looking him up at home in Washington. "But I still have fading photos and un fading memories, and an abiding love of France and the French."

Jilly Cooper's experience was ideal for a future writer. In Imogen her dowdy librarian heroine gets made over into a beauty in the South of France. We can now reveal that this is pure retrospective wishful-thinking. Jilly herself at 16

was "a thing of extreme un-beauty, eleven stone two, covered in spots, with a Horrocks shirt-waisted dress covered in ladybirds. The French girls very kindly said it was ravissant."

Sent alone to Mazzamet in the south. Homesick and missing her pony, she was at first forlorn. "I fell in love with the head of the family, who was frightfully romantic, just back from South America and widowed, with crinkly black eyes and a hawk profile. His little daughter realised and said to him, 'Oh, qu'elle est laide! Jughyl! And he kindly said, 'Non — elle n'est pas très laide'."

As for what the French children thought of life in Britain, that is another matter altogether. And we shall come to that next.

LIBBY PURVES

Anna Hunter was savagely attacked with a knife last December. She tells Liz Gill how she made her recovery



Anna Hunter at home in Hertfordshire. "I had to give evidence and that was cathartic because I was confronting him with the only means at my disposal — words"

Charting a route to survival

When Anna Hunter hears sentence passed on the man who stabbed her it will be, she hopes, the last piece in the jigsaw of her recovery from an attack so savage that police at the scene believed it would be only a matter of hours before they were dealing with a murder enquiry.

Miss Hunter, 39, the publisher of the Prince of Wales's lithographs, was stabbed last December — Friday 13th and the foggiest night in years — on the doorstep of her home in Hertfordshire. Her assailant was a young man she knew slightly, he worked in a nearby supermarket car park and had dated the children's former nanny a few times. His real name was Andrew Edwards but she knew him by his local nicknames of Elvis, on whom he modelled himself, or the Have-A-Nice-Day man, the phrase he always used to customers.

"I suppose I thought of him like most people did as a bit simple, he always had this insane grin, but I never in a million years thought he was dangerous," Miss Hunter says.

"I'd been having a business meeting here and then we were going on to dinner. It was about 8.15. The children had been collected and I had just been upstairs to get my jacket when I saw someone under the porch light. I knew who it was so I took off the chain and opened the door. He was dishevelled and scruffy and he looked distressed. He asked if he could come in and I said he couldn't but I said, 'If you tell me what's the matter, maybe I can help you'. He said, 'No, I want to talk to you'. I said, 'That's not possible. Give me your parents number and I'll ring them and they can come and get you'."

He gave her a number and she turned to repeat it to Graham Kenney, her business associate. As she turned back, Edwards suddenly produced a seven-inch double-bladed knife and plunged it into her stomach. As it was going in, Miss Hunter instinctively put her left hand to her abdomen and the knife severed the tendons of three fingers.

"As he stepped forward again I screamed and he went to stab me in the chest. I thought, he's trying to kill me. I wriggled and he got my right arm with the knife through the jacket, cutting it to the bone and severing the main artery and the median nerve. He then saw Graham and charged at him."

She remembers what happened next with great clarity. "It was as if a

voice was telling me exactly what I had to do." Just inside the doorway of her study off the hall is a panic button, a two inch square plastic box installed as an optional extra to their burglar alarm system. It still bears traces of lipstick: "I kissed it when I came home from hospital. I'm utterly convinced it saved my life."

"It's the type which you have to push two fingers into so it can't be set off accidentally and you need some strength to do it. I remember thinking I must use one arm to support the other. Then I hid in the darkened drawing room."

Pressing the button set off the alarm system and alerted Scotland Yard to a personal attack. The "unbelievable noise" and flashing lights made Edwards run off and brought help: the police within six minutes and three doctor neighbours who Miss Hunter says were panic-stricken at the horror.

"It took 50 minutes for the ambulance to arrive because of the fog and a bomb hoax at Brent Cross, and in that long wait I thought I might die," Miss Hunter says. "I remember saying goodbye to my children in my head and hoping my best friend would remember the funeral arrangements we'd once talked about."

"But I also remember thinking 'I'm not going to allow this to happen. I am going to survive.' I had this wonderful policeman who was determined that I should stay conscious and kept talking to me. We talked about anything, my kids, his kids, his wife, holidays, and of course who had done it."

"I was not in that much pain. It was explained to me later that the pain would have been beyond the scale at which it could have been registered. There were sharp pains in my left hand and a dull ache in my stomach but there was also the horror of not being able to move my right hand."

Miss Hunter underwent six hours of emergency surgery in Barnet General hospital and was given 12 pints of blood. "The surgeon had come straight from a dinner party. When I saw him outside theatre he was still wearing his dress suit. The knife had pierced her stomach, colon and small intestine and come within a finger's breadth of her aorta. Mr Kenney had a five-inch abdominal stab which had missed every vital organ, doctors said, only by a miracle."

When she came round from the anaesthetic, Miss Hunter felt "over-

whelmingly lucky to have survived. It was only the second or third night in hospital that the intrusive thoughts began, the images of a knife and the face of the attacker, all the million and one what-ifs, what if the children had been there, what if he'd attacked me outside?"

She was physically helpless but mentally alert. "I decided to use all my faculties to concentrate on a plan for recovery and marshal my forces just as if it was a business plan. My aim was to come out of it with no disability at all, neither mental or physical. I thought the best way was to be intensely practical, what are the things I can do for myself and who can I get to do the other things?"

Her attitude was to get the best

'My aim was to come out of it with no disability at all, neither mental or physical'

possible help not just for her body — a plastic surgery team at the Harley Street Clinic, for instance, spent nearly four hours in January reconnecting her median nerve — but for her mind.

"I had read enough to know you have to deal with the whole person if you are ever going to get back to normal so I have been seeing a psychiatrist who specialises in post-traumatic stress disorder, and a cognitive therapist who teaches strategies to deal with problems."

"At one point I would be overcome by horror at the sight of a row of knives. But I learnt to say, 'OK a knife stabbed me, but a knife, the surgeon's, saved me'. Now I'm able to use a knife."

She was given enormous practical and emotional support by many people: family, friends, her priest and other local clergyman, her GP, Victim Support — "this wonderful woman came to the hospital and said they would give whatever help was necessary" — her children, James, 14, Laura, 12, and Sebastian, nine.

"They were stunned and horrified when they first saw me. I'm a single parent and they always saw me as

totally capable. I had to spend a lot of time reassuring them I would be fine and how lucky we were really. They all had different jobs. Sebastian would do the bandages and ointments, James would do practical tasks around the house, Laura would help with bathing and hair."

Miss Hunter did not consider moving house. "I desperately wanted to be home when I was in hospital and I was very comforted by being back here. The house saved me and I love it."

Her attacker's capture and conviction played a significant part in her psychological recuperation. "The fact that he was in custody from day one was incredibly helpful. If he had been granted bail that would have been horrific and if he had got off it would have been the worst possible scenario."

The police she says were marvellous throughout. "They hugged me before the court case. It may not be standard Metropolitan procedure but it was lovely. The trial was very therapeutic. He pleaded not guilty saying it was a case of mistaken identity so I had to give evidence and that was cathartic because I was confronting him with the only means at my disposal — words."

"I could describe vividly and graphically what happened and when I was cross examined it gave me great pleasure to quash his defence. I'm glad he didn't change his plea to guilty because that would have taken away the opportunity to confront him."

"I have to face him for the last time," she says of her plan to attend Edwards's sentencing in court next month. "It will be a way of leaving behind something that was gruesome and terrible which was part of my life, but not the most important thing. It's rather more dramatic to have been attacked than to have been ill or in a car crash but you can still get better. And you have to let go."

Detectives plan to reinterview Edwards in prison to try to discover a motive. "I'm told a truly motiveless crime is so rare a policeman might encounter only one in a career. It wasn't a sexual attack. I never felt he had an infatuation or an obsession with me at all. There had been no unpleasantness or argument. There was no real connection between us. It would make me feel better to know why because we expect every action to have some motive."

The judge has called for detailed reports before sentencing. Only when

he feels that these give him some insight into Edwards's state of mind and background will he decide what course to take.

This month Miss Hunter had a further operation to free scar tissue on her left hand; eventually she hopes to regain full use of the thumb, index and middle fingers on her right; part of her physiotherapy involves arm wrestling with her children. In September she will have the scars on her abdomen tidied up — "because I'm vain" — after which she plans to return to work.

"If I'd rushed back to work when I wasn't fully recovered I think I would have suffered in years to come. I believe that time spent positively on recovery, and I don't mean just lying around doing nothing, is a worthwhile investment in your future."

Miss Hunter is obviously a resilient and resourceful woman, due partly, she believes, to her "Irish blood and an upbringing that taught us never to moan and whinge". But she is also reasonably well-off, well-connected — among the cards and letters were greetings from the Prince of Wales — and well-insured. In other circumstances she may have fared very differently.

"I might have been carried along by events rather than being able to control a lot of things. But there is help available for everyone. You need friends more than you need money or connections and you can't buy those."

"I don't want to sound some sort of superwoman. There were dark days and pain and it will have taken the best part of a year out of my life. But I feel a lot of good has come out of it. I learned how kind people are, the whole community rallied round. I had a lot of love and spiritual warmth and friendship."

"I never felt why me or angry about it or revengeful. I just wanted justice. I can actually feel pity for him because he will never amount to anything now. His life is in ruins and mine isn't."

She would not want to think that by talking about the attack she had added to the climate of fear. "I would not spend my life in fear and I would not want other women to. But they must use my experience to think about their safety and take positive steps. I hope that by saying what I have said people can understand not only how it feels, but also that the person who perpetrates the crime does not always win."

Cure that could kill



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

DONALD Lambert is part of the successful venture capital team at Midland Montagu, one of the largest investors in Britain's ailing economy. But five years ago at this time of the year, Mr Lambert would have been half asleep, sedated by the anti-histamines he took to control his severe hay fever.

The new generation of anti-histamines has spared Mr Lambert, and tens of thousands of other sufferers, from living a dormouse existence in the pollen season. Terfenadine, better known as Triludan or Seldane, became the market leader. It seemed so safe that nobody was surprised when the government allowed it to be sold without prescription in the chemists.

However, this confidence has been misplaced. There have now been well authenticated reports that the use of Triludan is very occasionally responsible for heart attacks. The US Food and Drug Administration says that they have knowledge of 64 cardiac incidents, including 15 cardiac arrests and four deaths after the use of this particular anti-histamine.

Since most doctors were unaware that Triludan could cause cardiac arrhythmias, although the manufacturers had issued the first tentative warnings in 1990, these figures may be an underestimate.

Even so, they may not represent a very great danger when the risk is compared with the many millions of doses taken, and it might be argued that Triludan, by not causing sedation, must have saved the lives of numerous

car drivers, machine operators and others who might otherwise have suffered fatal accidents.

However, there are aspects of the propensity for Triludan to cause cardiac arrhythmias which are particularly worrying. It is found that the risk is greatly increased if the patient is also taking the antibiotic, Erythromycin, which is commonly prescribed for chest infections and sinusitis, the very complaints which often complicate hay fever and other allergies. It has been acknowledged for some time that the anti-fungal agent Ketocazole, marketed as Nizoral, may also interact with Triludan.

The other group of patients particularly at risk when taking Triludan are those with liver impairment. This is also unfortunate, because it had been hoped that Triludan — since it did not cause sedation and mental confusion — would not only protect patients from pollen as they strode around the golf course, but would be safer when they were enjoying a drink in the bar afterwards. It now seems that Triludan should not be used by anybody whose liver might already be stressed, and all heavy drinkers should be included in this category.

The 3 or 4 per cent of British people who suffer from hay fever, and who do not want to have streaming eyes, runny noses, sinus congestion, headaches, and sleeplessness, and do need to have a comparatively clear head, need not despair. Nobody has yet pointed their finger at Claritin loratadine, or Zirtek cetirizine dihydrochloride.

In the heat of the night



"TOO Darn Hot" was one of the songs which made Kiss Me, Kate, the postwar musical, such a success; its message perpetuated the idea that a man's sexual vigour declined as the temperature rose.

Later research showed that fertility as well as libido was affected by the seasons. The magazine *General Practitioner* reports on recent research from Duke University, North Carolina, which confirms the earlier studies which showed that in the height of the summer most men's sperm counts are lower, and that they produce more malformed sperm. The number of men whose semen becomes infertile also increases in summer.

These findings sit well with the known hazards to fertility of too hot baths and too tight pants.

Now the American research workers, who originally published their findings in the journal *Fertility and Sterility*, have shown that there is

another factor: light rather than, or perhaps as well as, heat is important. A survey compared the fertility of men working in an air-conditioned office in New Orleans, where they were kept deliciously cool, with those slaving away exposed to the heat. There was no difference in the quality of the semen, which declined in both groups as the year progressed.

Further research involving 4,462 male volunteers showed that blood levels of the hormone testosterone which determines sexual behaviour as well as fertility, also varied with the seasons. The scientists suggest that the amount of daylight is the crucial factor.

The human male seems to respond in a diametrically opposite way to battery hens. Men do much better with long dark evenings, for it seems that candles and low lights may affect testosterone production as well as provide a romantic setting.

Contact with Aids

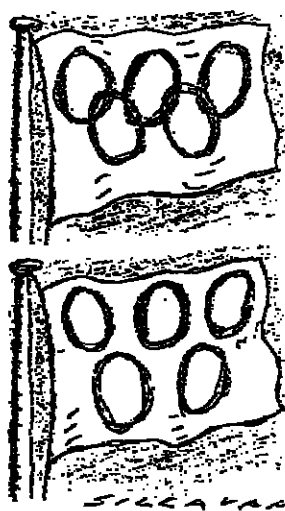
DESPITE the furore when it was known that Magic Johnson, the American basketball player, was going to continue to play competitive games although HIV positive, all is apparently well, and the protests have died away. Johnson is now in Barcelona at the Olympic Games.

There is an obvious risk to other players taking part in contact sports with people who are HIV positive. Blood may flow, and it may contaminate broken skin surfaces, whether by cuts or abrasions.

No one can say that infection will not be spread in this way, and indeed one of the first health care workers to become infected by HIV from a patient was thought to have picked up the virus as a consequence of looking after patients when she had eczema of the hands.

However, there is encouraging news for Johnson's teammates and opponents; it seems that any risk is minimal. An editorial in the *British Medical Journal* tried to evaluate the danger to doctors from HIV-positive patients. The

risk of patient-staff transmission following accidental inoculation was put at one in 275; but, and here is the good news for the basketball players, there were no reports of infection from 921 incidents in which the doctors' skin or mucous membranes were exposed to infected body fluids.



Faith in the healer

Therapists may be registered to protect patients' confidentiality

You are lying on the massage table feeling blissfully relaxed. You tell your aromatherapist intimate details about your life. A short time later — if you are a "celebrity" — you may read these revelations about yourself in a gossip column. If you are not so well known perhaps you have them repeated back to you at a dinner party. Either way, the effect can be devastating.

As more and more people consult "therapists" rather than doctors who have sworn

the Hippocratic oath and committed themselves to confidentiality with the risk of being struck off and unable to practice if they betray your confidence, this scenario is of growing concern. If people reveal intimate secrets to their hairdressers, they give away much more to a therapist.

The British Medical Association is looking into the need for therapists to be registered in the same way as orthodox practitioners, so that their patients have the same rights. "We are keen to establish new



Sole bearing: patients may reveal much during massage

guidelines for confidentiality," says Nigel Duncan, a BMA spokesman. "Our concern is that there are no rules and regulations and guidelines, no councils such as the General Medical Council to sit in judgment on therapists. At the moment anyone can set themselves up to do some of these treatments. Though there are

some reputable bodies with good codes of conduct people can still practice happily without being a member of any."

Doctors and psychiatrists follow strict codes of confidentiality which prescribe "secrecy at all times unless a patient consents or it is in the patient's own interest that the information should be disclosed but it

is either impossible or medically undesirable in the patient's own interest to seek his consent," Mr Duncan says.

Confidentiality has been complicated by the new permissiveness in giving patients access to their records, he says. "Many doctors' notes are stuffed with details from third parties — from the wife about her husband's drinking habits, for example — which under no circumstances should be revealed."

The Institute for Complementary Medicine says its members are bound by a rigid code of ethics which includes confidentiality. Michael Endicott, an ICM spokesman, says: "If anyone on our British Register of Complementary Practitioners revealed details about a patient, there would be an enquiry and they could be struck off our register. This is why so many more potential patients are demanding to see

registered practitioners."

Such practitioners should have a certificate to show they are a current member of the register, Mr Endicott says, and patients should feel free to ask to see it. "The only time one of our therapists would discuss the patient's case is if they were handing it over to another practitioner."

Michael Durnall, a chiropractor who runs the Sayer Clinic in London, says, "The same Hippocratic oath applies to chiropractic and osteopathy and other trained and registered practitioners, but people do tell you too much and I don't want to know. I don't nurture that sort of discussion, and try to keep the conversation very much to exercise and back pain. But something like massage is different, that's where you're very relaxed and can get into trouble. I tell my massage everything."

VICTORIA MCKEE
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When to decide practicability

not compliance with the engagement order was practical the industrial tribunal had bas

its decision on the PLA's failure seek voluntary severance. A industrial tribunal was not entitled to substitute its own views for that of the employment judge.

The duty on an employer was able to explain why there were no vacancies and he was entitled say what in his judgment was the best interests of his business. The tribunal had erred in law in substituting its own judgment for that of the employers.

It was part of the PLA's submission that the lack of vacancies in the workforce of all divisions was being made under section 69 because it would establish that compliance was impracticable. A bare assertion to that effect would be insufficient. The issue of vacancies was relevant.

accountable to re-engage on and General Workshop stewards who had been employed at Tilbury and who had been employed at the other two sites.

The industrial tribunal had substituted its own commercial judgment for that of the employers and had failed adequately to take into account the question of finance when criticising the PLA's failure to seek voluntary severance.

The appeal was allowed and the case remitted for rehearing.

Solicitors: Masons, Patinson & Brewer.

Seeking worldwide asset freezing injunctions

papers, the precise grounds of which the case was said: (a) to meet the requirements for the issue of *Mareva* injunction; and (b) to give rise to specified exceptional circumstances justifying the grant of a worldwide injunction.

4 The requirement of a skeleton argument could perhaps be adopted for all *Mareva* applications. That would have the additional advantage that the affidavit in support would be confined, as it should be, to evidence, the arguments being deployed in the skeleton.

The present practice of mixing evidence and argument in affidavits increased the difficulty in disentangling the real issues in the application.

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A 10x10 grid for a crossword puzzle. The grid is partially filled with black squares. The starting positions for the clues are marked with numbers: 9, 11, 14, 16, 19 in the left margin and 8, 12, 17, 20 in the top margin.

ACROSS

1 Free of charge (6)
2 Ecclesiastical council (6)
3 Electrical unit (3)
4 Hindu retreat (6)
5 Expenditure (6)
6 Ore layer (4)
7 Prevail over (8)
8 Woman's shirt (6)
9 Moon goddess (6)
10 Uniform reward (5,3)
11 45 inch measures (4)
12 Monarch's residence (6)
13 Emotionally attracted (2,4)
14 Forbid (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 28
ACROSS: 1 Wand 3 A
Fir 11 Udder 12 Essay
lete 17 Rival 19 Nab
dle 24 Swig
DOWN: 1 Watered 2
Desired 7 Golf 9 Ab
path 15 Bending 18 Vi

WINNER
By Raymond Keene
This position is from the
game Medina - Tal
Palma de Mallorca 1979.
This is one of Tal's most
famous finishes. Black to
play and win.
Solution below.

CROSS	23 Distinctive character
1 Free of charge (6)	24 Angry speech (6)
2 Ecological council (5)	
3 Electrical unit (3)	DOWN
4 Hindu retreat (6)	2 Large Museum site
5 Expenditure (6)	7 (7, 8)
6 One layer (7)	3 Large hairy spider (9)
7 Prevail over (8)	4 A person (7)
8 Woman's shirt (6)	5 Use cigarettes (5)
9 Moon goddess (6)	6 Crazy man (3)
10 Uniform reward (5, 3)	7 Wadding opening (6)
11 45 inch measures (4)	8 Blade drive (9)
12 Monarch's residence (6)	15 Rich mining deposit
13 Emotionally attracted (2, 4)	
14 Forbid (3)	16 Common people (5)
	17 Fire residue (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2854
CROSS: 1 Wand 3 Abused 8 Out of danger 10
 Fir 11 Udder 12 Essayed 14 Wad 15 Bad 16 A
 17 Rival 19 Nab 22 Vivian Leigh 23 Hud-
 dle 24 Swig
DOWN: 1 Watered 2 Naff 4 Beegrudge 5 Shred
 Desired 7 Golf 9 Ahoy there 13 Sea level 14 War-
 path 15 Bending 18 Vivid 20 Buhl 21 Flaw


WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the

ame Medina - Tal,
alma de Mallorca 1979.
his is one of Tal's most
amous finishes. Black to
lay and win.

solution below.



olution: after 1... $\text{Cdd3}+2$ Kc4 3 Nc5 1 white is unable to
invert the black h-pawn from queening.

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax (9677)
6.30 Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Wintchell and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (55870847).

8.25 Olympic Grandstand presented by Steve Rider in Barcelona. Athletics: the first day of the track and field events includes heats in the women's 100m, the men's 100m and the women's 800m. Swimming: heats in the women's 200m butterfly, the men's 200m individual medley, the women's 200m backstroke, the men's 4x100m individual medley and the women's 50m freestyle. Rowing: semi-finals and repechages in the men's and women's eights and the men's coxed pairs. Includes News, regional news and weather at 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 (38089509) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7058967).

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (9677) 1.30 *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (9677) 1.50 *Eldorado* (Ceefax) (9677) 2.20 *Olympic Grandstand* and *Racing from Goodwood*. From Barcelona. Athletics: the second round of the women's 100m, the women's javelin and men's high jump; Swimming: finals of the women's 200m butterfly and the men's 200m individual medley; Shooting: the men's three position small-bore rifle final; Tennis: boxing and badminton news. From "Glorious Goodwood": the Philip Comes Molecomb Stakes (2.30), the Leslie and Godwin Spiffers Stakes (3.10), the Schroders Glorious Stakes (3.45) and the Seaboard Stakes (4.15) (35622509).

5.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (9677) 5.55 *One O'Clock News* with John Humphrys and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) (9677) 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with John Humphrys and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) (9677) 6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (899). Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Arts — Melodrama (7934431). Ends at 7.10.

8.00 Breakfast News (9727306) 8.15 *England* (b/w). The Olympics air show of 1929/1930 (9727306) 8.20 *Army Lives*. The third of six programmes about family life in the British army (Ceefax) (55870847).

9.00 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (91852290) 9.25 *Ippo Facto*. Daniel Price investigates humour (91852290) 9.55 *Playdays* (91852290) 10.15 *Double Dare* (91852290) 10.35 *The O-Zone*. Pop music magazine (91852290) 10.55 *File* (91852290) 11.00 *File* (91852290) 11.15 *File* (91852290) 11.30 *File* (91852290) 11.45 *File* (91852290) 12.00 *File* (91852290) 12.15 *File* (91852290) 12.30 *File* (91852290) 12.45 *File* (91852290) 12.55 *File* (91852290) 1.00 *File* (91852290) 1.15 *File* (91852290) 1.30 *File* (91852290) 1.45 *File* (91852290) 1.55 *File* (91852290) 2.00 *File* (91852290) 2.15 *File* (91852290) 2.30 *File* (91852290) 2.45 *File* (91852290) 2.55 *File* (91852290) 3.00 *File* (91852290) 3.15 *File* (91852290) 3.30 *File* (91852290) 3.45 *File* (91852290) 3.55 *File* (91852290) 4.00 *File* (91852290) 4.15 *File* (91852290) 4.30 *File* (91852290) 4.45 *File* (91852290) 4.55 *File* (91852290) 5.00 *File* (91852290) 5.15 *File* (91852290) 5.30 *File* (91852290) 5.45 *File* (91852290) 5.55 *File* (91852290) 6.00 *File* (91852290) 6.15 *File* (91852290) 6.30 *File* (91852290) 6.45 *File* (91852290) 6.55 *File* (91852290) 7.00 *File* (91852290) 7.15 *File* 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Announcement on pharmaceuticals demerger sends shares in chemicals giant soaring

ICI reveals plan to split itself in two

By GEORGE SIVELL

ICI shares soared by 76p to £11.71 after Britain's largest industrial concern said it planned to demerge its pharmaceuticals and other biological businesses.

The move follows a share raid by Lord Hanson last year that resulted in intense bid speculation and a move by Hanson to open talks with ICI on taking a 40 per cent shareholding in the pharmaceuticals division. Lord Hanson sold his 2.8 per cent stake in May.

City analysts put a tentative value of £5 billion to £6 billion on ICI Bio, against last night's £8.3 billion stock market value for the whole of ICI. ICI said that in 1991, ICI Bio made a trading profit of £720 million on sales of £3.9 billion. ICI Bio would be made up of pharmaceuticals,

agrochemicals and seeds. The demerger of ICI made just £13 million last year on £8.7 billion of sales.

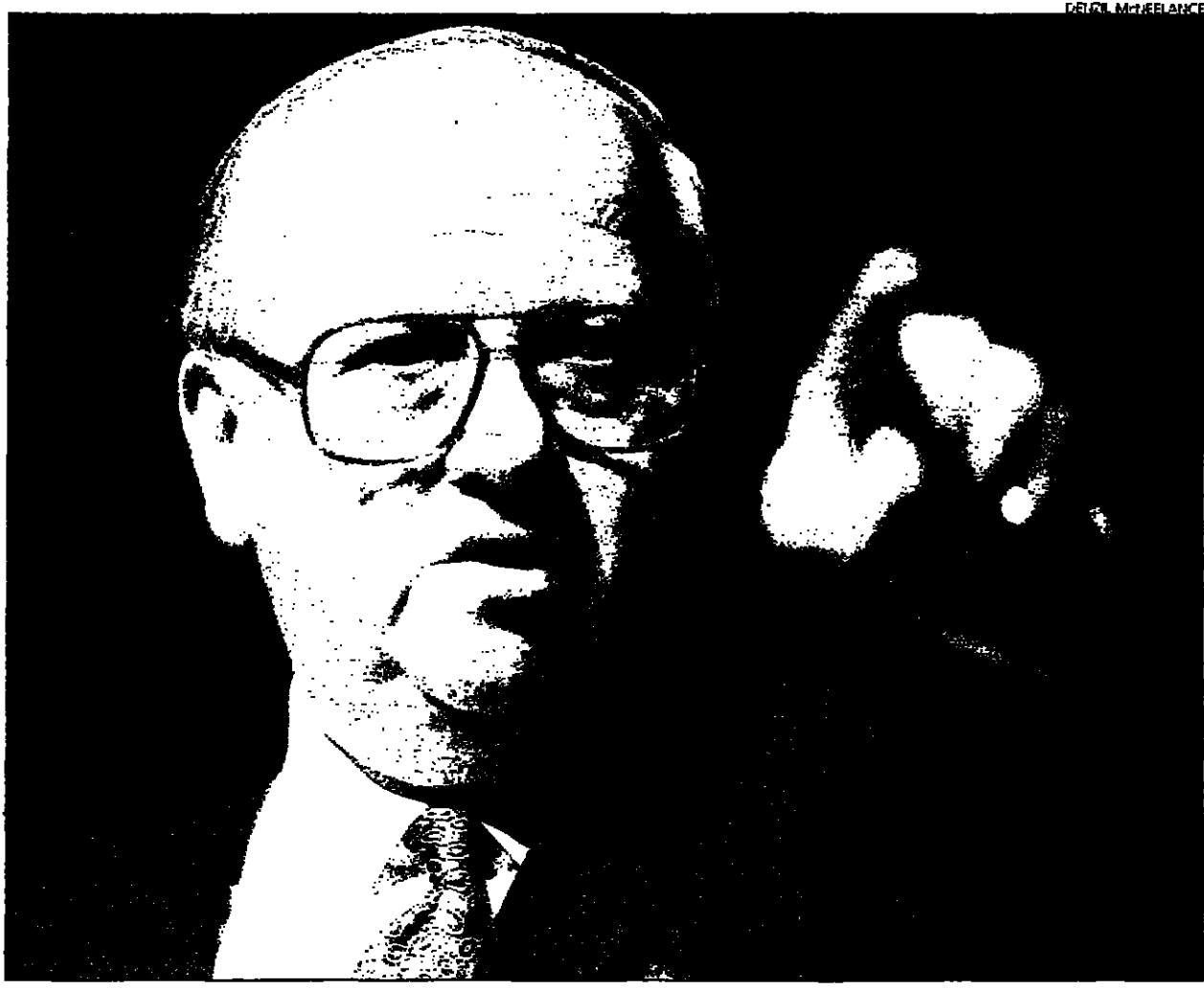
Advisers to ICI defended the decision to put agrochemicals and seeds into the Bio group, even though they would lower the potential stock market rating of what is to be spun off. "It was a business-driven decision," one said. "We have been working on it since early spring and the genesis of the idea goes back to the third quarter of 1989, when ICI realised it was facing a downturn."

Sir Denys Henderson, ICI chairman, dismissed the Hanson move last year as "yesterday's news". Hanson had been "a very brief shareholder, it was very clear it was not a long-term shareholder". He said there was a "powerful

business drive to the move, whatever the state of the financial markets".

A final decision is planned next February, when the full 1992 results are published. It will be taken "in the light of market and other conditions prevailing at the relevant time".

ICI says it might raise cash as part of the ICI Bio spin-off, a prospect that boosted pharmaceutical shares such as Fisons yesterday. Lord Hanson had criticised ICI for not spending enough on the pharmaceuticals business and analysts have long expected ICI to look for a takeover. But Sir Denys said: "We do not have to search for critical mass. ICI pharmaceuticals is bigger than some companies which are regarded as extremely viable."



Pointing the way: Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, said yesterday that ICI pharmaceuticals had critical mass

Hanson keeps its response low key

By GEORGE SIVELL

HANSON offered a muted response to ICI's announcement that it planned to float off its biological divisions.

Martin Taylor, joint vice chairman, said: "We would have been very happy to talk to them about this last year."

He pointed out that Hanson had proposed talks to ICI about enhancing shareholder value "but they did not want to discuss this with us and we sold the shares".

Lord Hanson sold his stake of 20 million ICI shares to Goldman Sachs at an undisclosed price, thought to have been around £14.05 a share, on May 8 this year. Hanson made an estimated profit of £42 million on the shares, before finance costs.

Goldman sold on half the shares at £14.10 to clients and retained the other half. The New York securities house would not comment yesterday on how many shares remained on its books. Lord

Hanson bought the stake in May 1991 for £11.94 a share and engaged three top financial advisers: N.M. Rothschild, Lazard Brothers and Cazenove.

A year ago, Lord Hanson made his first public criticism of ICI, saying "a start has been made" in improving performance but "it will only be possible to gauge management's success as events unfold".

Sir Denys Henderson, ICI chairman, conceded at the time that the Hanson stake "has concentrated our minds". The stake, however, focused attention on Hanson itself. The *Times* highlighted the complexities of Hanson's accounting and tax planning.

Hanson advisers argued that if the company took a 40 per cent stake in ICI's pharmaceuticals division, it would provide sufficient financial backing to turn the division into a world leader.

BT accuses OfTel of interference

By A CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT regulators lack vision and are tending towards intervening too much in privatised industries, Iain Vallance, BT chairman, told the annual meeting in Birmingham yesterday.

OfTel, the industry regulator, should provide a stable framework to enable BT and its competitors to plan for the future, he said. Regulators should stick to preserving the overall public interest, leaving management free to manage without interference.

BT is holding talks with OfTel about proposals to tighten the limit on price rises to 7.5 per cent below the retail price index from the present limit of 6.25 per cent below inflation.

The deadline for a response from BT passed on June 30 and some observers expect an announcement today as BT had indicated it would respond to the proposals by the end of July.

OfTel's proposals come into force in August 1993 and last four years, market analysts expect BT to concur.

Mr Vallance said: "Our only course if we fail to agree with OfTel even on minor issues is to allow the matter to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission."

He described the talks with OfTel as a major undertaking, involving huge demands on senior management time, adding: "It is also unclear how the regulators themselves are

to be held accountable. The regulated industries have little right of appeal, and, in practice, no effective recourse to judicial review."

BT cited regulation, as well as competition and recession, as factors behind the 28 per cent fall in first-quarter pre-tax profit to £596 million announced on Wednesday. The profits were also hit by redundancy costs and losses on disposals.

Mr Vallance said the detailed provisions in the OfTel proposals would reduce the company's ability to rebalance its prices, a reference to loss-making line installation operations.

He said BT was able to hold pre-tax profit for the year to end-March to about the same level as the previous year due to tight cost control. The 0.1 per cent fall in 1991-2 profit to £3.07 billion was the first since BT was privatised in 1984.

Cost controls included a redundancy scheme that will cut staff numbers by 29,000 to 181,000 by the end of this year.

BT's 2.6 million shareholders have elected to join the Taurus system of electronic share transfer and registration transfer, whereby their share certificates will be replaced by a statement. The decision is the biggest coup yet for the stock exchange, which to date has only seen 28 companies obtain shareholder approval for a switch to Taurus.

Profits fall sharply in first six months

By OUR CITY STAFF

ICI reported disappointing half-year results yesterday. Pre-tax profits for the first six months of 1992 were down from £507 million to £420 million. The City expects no more than £750 million for the full year, against £843 million in 1991.

The results came as no surprise. ICI said in June that signs of upturn earlier in the year had not been maintained. On prospects, Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, said: "Life will continue to be tough, with little, if any, expectation of growth this year. Cost reduction and cash conservation, will therefore remain priorities until economic recovery is really under way."

"This recession is lasting longer and is deeper than most people originally expected and the faint signs of recovery which we saw in the early spring have faded."

The half-year dividend is held at 21p out of earnings down from 46.6p to 39.9p a

share. Last year, ICI set itself the target of £450 million a year in cost cuts. Sir Denys said savings so far were running at an annual rate of £250 million.

In the first half, profits from what will become ICI Bio fell from £387 million to £335 million. Pharmaceuticals rose from £233 million to £241 million. Agrochemicals and seeds, however, fell from £154 million to £94 million because of competition in America, unease over the EC's common agricultural policy and credit problems in Eastern Europe.

Speciality chemicals rose from £116 million to £126 million over the half year but industrial chemicals fell from £95 million to £41 million on sales down from £1.9 billion to £1.6 billion.

Over the quarter from April to June, ICI made £208 million before tax, down from £212 million in the first quarter and £309 million in the second quarter of 1991.

ICI directors pointed out that the pharmaceuticals business had been allowed to grow because it had the best growth prospects. Sir Denys said that the pains division, for example, had not been allowed to proceed with a substantial acquisition because the company was trying to keep the balance sheet tight and maximise cash flow.

ICI is, effectively, the fifteenth-largest pharmaceutical company in the world, behind the likes of Merck, Bristol-Myers, Glaxo, Hoechst, Ciba-Geigy and SmithKline Beecham. But it is ahead of Schering and Wellcome.

Sir Denys Henderson will be chairman of both ICI and ICI Bio, although the companies will have separate chief executives. Ronnie Hampel will be chief executive of ICI and David Barnes will be chief executive of ICI Bio. Until 1991 he had executive responsibility for pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and seeds.

Stealing arguments, page 21
Stock market, page 20

Midland back in the black as bad debt provisions fall

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank, taken over by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank this month, returned to profit in the first half of the year, on a 33 per cent fall in bad debt provisions and tight cost control.

The bank surged to a pre-tax profit of £59 million, against a loss of £71 million last time. Bad debt provisions fell by £175 million to £355 million, the lowest for two years. The bank is not paying an interim dividend due to the Hongkong Bank takeover.

Sir Peter, the chairman, said: "The management was successful in turning the bank around. We still have a long way to go but these results show the progress we are making in returning the bank to more normal levels of profitability, despite the effect of the continuing recession on the level of business."

He issued a bleak warning on the prospects for economic recovery. "The present trading

conditions are likely to continue and when recovery comes it may not look that different from what we now consider as recession."

Midland was hit by falling loan demand caused by the recession. The bank's income fell 4 per cent to £1.59 billion, which cut operating profits by 8 per cent to £431 million.

The fall in operating profits was more than compensated for by the reduction in bad debt provisions. Brian Pearce, the chief executive, said the bank now has provisions equal to more than 6 per cent of its non-mortgage loan book.

The bank made provisions of £249 million in the half year against almost 5,800 corporate customers. Provisions on personal accounts fell by £29 million to £77 million.

Midland's figures revealed that it spent £18 million in the battle to merge with the Hongkong Bank and fend off an offer from Lloyds. The bank also suffered an £11

million loss when it closed its Norwegian stockbroking subsidiary. Both were taken as extraordinary items.

Midland has reorganised its management in line with the plans of the Hongkong Bank. It has appointed new regional heads to bring retail and corporate business back together.

Meanwhile, Mr Pearce said that Keith Whitson, the new deputy chief executive, who has come from Hongkong Bank, would take special responsibility for Midland's European business.

During the half year, Midland closed 98 outlets and shed more than 400 staff in its drive to reduce costs. Total expenses fell 3 per cent to £1.16 billion, which helped to offset the drop in income.

Midland Montagu, the merchant banking subsidiary, suffered a £42 million fall in profits to £60 million.

Comment, page 21

BA looks likely to spread its wings further in US

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

BRITISH Airways appears to be negotiating the next phase of its American expansion. USAir, the fourth-largest US carrier, in which BA plans to take a 44 per cent stake for \$750 million, is reported to be in talks to buy the transatlantic routes of bankrupt Trans World Airlines.

If the deal went ahead, it would give BA an interest in routes between American cities and European capitals outside Britain. American carriers, such as United, which see an opportunity to press for reciprocal opening up of European skies, may say that BA is developing a "Trojan horse" strategy in America. Analysts

estimate a likely purchase price at about \$300 million.

Yesterday, all three airlines refused to comment on reports of a purchase, or on whether discussions between USAir and TWA, which started a month ago, were continuing.

BA's link with USAir creates the world's largest airline alliance as part of a strategy to consolidate the UK carrier as a global airline, enabling it to compete with the major American carriers.

Lee Howard, chief executive of Airline Economics, Washington consultants, said: "A deal with TWA is the next logical step. It would put USAir up there in the global carrier status. TWA's European franchise, which is its major asset, represents a rare

opportunity and despite the state of the airline industry, will command a premium price."

TWA serves 22 major European cities from five American hubs, from New York's John F. Kennedy, Washington Dulles, Boston, St Louis and Los Angeles, its European operations include London, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Brussels, Cairo, Paris, Copenhagen, Rome, Frankfurt, Geneva, Istanbul, Madrid, Munich, Milan, Tel Aviv, Berlin, Vienna, Zurich, and Lisbon.

Any purchase of TWA's routes would need approval from the US transport department and from governments of the destination countries. The American authorities are still reviewing details of the BA-USAir

alliance and a spokesman said there was a possibility that they would need more information on the deal.

The transport department has yet to seek the opinion of BA's American rivals on the deal, but industry executives are already accusing BA of gaining control of USAir through the back door. While it would control only 21 per cent of the votes, new corporate rules being written by USAir would effectively give BA a veto on major policy decisions.

Analysts say it is still unclear who USAir would pay for TWA assets should it wish to demonstrate it as its own deal and seal it before the BA alliance is complete. USAir losses jumped 50 per cent to \$84.9 million in the second quarter of this year.

American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft Account

With effect from 1st August 1992 the rate of interest applicable to American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft accounts will be varied to 1.92% per month (23.04% per annum) and the Agreements with all holders of such accounts will be so varied.

Effective Annualised Interest Rate 25.6%



Financial Services

American Express Bank Ltd
Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Connecticut, U.S.A.
A Member of The Securities and Futures Authority

TODAY IN BUSINESS

FLAT FIGURES



Latest figures show that the long-awaited US economic recovery fizzled out in the second quarter
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RIDING OUT

Soaring profits from a French gas boiler subsidiary has allowed Hepworth to ride out recession
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PAYOUT HELD



A maintained interim dividend from Harrison's & Crossfield, the building materials to foods group, pleased the market
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SWEETER DEAL

BCCI creditors are to be offered a sweetened compensation package after a court refused to accept the original deal
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TOMORROW



Michael Pickard, chairman of London Docklands Development Corporation, keeps business and friends firmly apart

US dollar
1.9177 (-0.0030)
German mark
2.8453 (+0.0011)
Exchange index
92.3 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share
1807.9 (-7.2)
FT-SE 100
2411.6 (-11.0)
New York Dow Jones
3381.08 (+1.89)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
15555.60 (+459.65)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10%
3-month eligible bills: 9%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3%
3-month Treasury: 5.8%
30-year bonds: 10%
10%
10%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£/\$1.9184
£/DM2.9435
£/SwF2.3384
£/FF6.6016
£/Yen245.01
£/Indec 92.3
£/ECU 131.7112
£/ECU1.384482
£/SDR1.384411
London Forex market close

COMMODITIES

London: AM \$26.75 PM \$26.75
Close \$26.25
\$185.50-186.00
New York: Cornex \$ 26.15-26.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$20.50/bbl (\$20.70)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 130.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Hepworth gloomy on economy as profits slip

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

JOHN Carter, chief executive at Hepworth — which claims to be a barometer of economic change — said yesterday that Britain showed "no signs of recovery".

Mr Carter was speaking after unveiling a fall in pre-tax profits from £35.3 million to £32.8 million for the six months to the end of June. Earnings per share eased from 12.2p to 11.3p but the interim dividend is held at 5.5p.

Hepworth, with products ranging from clay pipes to central heating boilers, said its worst problems were in the refractories division, which manufactures linings for the aluminium and glass industries. Worldwide demand for those industries' products has plummeted by about 20 per cent.

Operating profits halved to £4.6 million and threaten to disappear altogether as the group comes to grips with a vigorous cost-cutting programme.

"The profit outcome for the full year will inevitably be much lower than that achieved in 1991," Mr Carter said.

Some of the difference was made up by Saunier Duval, the French combination boiler business acquired in April 1990, which is doing good business since the introduction of gas to Spanish suburbs. Similar potential is seen in Turkey, which also contributed to the £3 million advance in operating profit to £13.5 million.

Building products, comprising mainly clay and plastic pipes, returned a same-again £11.9 million, boosted by the group's heavy involvement in rebuilding eastern Germany and a 12 per cent increase in British sales of plastic pipes. Hepworth claims to be reap-

ing the reward of pioneering plastic plumbing.

In a market down by 10 per cent, this has not been achieved without pain.

An additional 400 job losses are announced today, reducing the British building products workforce to about 1,600 employees, little more than half its 1988 level.

Home products were down by £1 million to £6.3 million but the fall was limited by cost-cutting.

Market share and margins have been maintained in the dominant heating division, despite an accelerating slide in demand.

The garage door market was down by 24 per cent in the second quarter, but the trade has responded favourably to new products emerging from Hepworth's plant at Bowburn, County Durham.

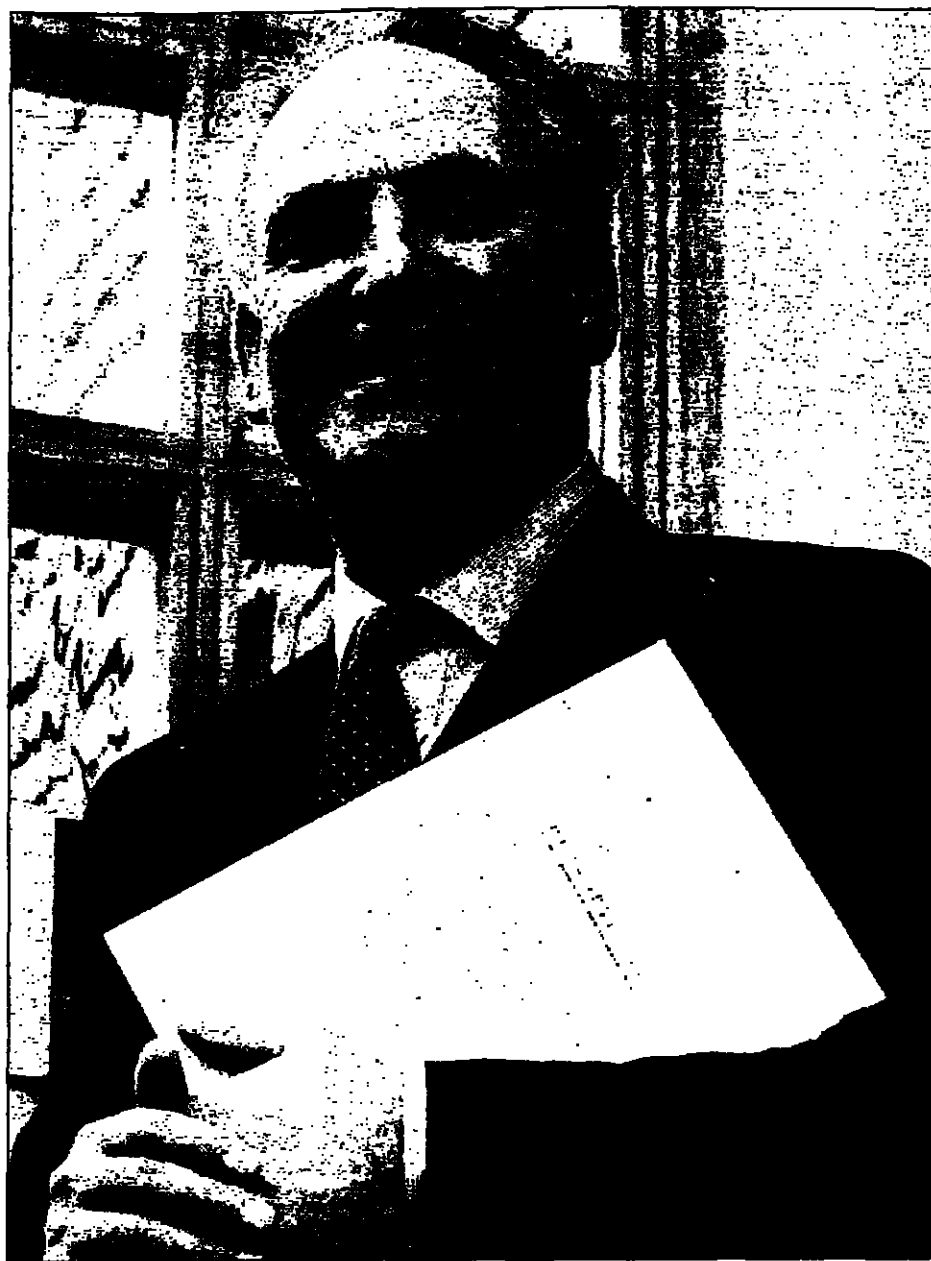
Overall, Hepworth could take charges of £8 million above the line in the second half of the year, although some of this will relate to action expected in early 1993.

"We are not frightened to take the medicine," Mr Carter said. "I can do nothing about the conditions in which we have to work. My job is to make sure we can work within them."

A positive cash flow in the first half enabled the group to reduce gearing by a few points to about 25 per cent, and capital spending is being curbed until conditions improve. This year's expenditure will be £20 million against £30 million last time.

"We are very confident over the medium term," he emphasises. "Our cost cutting will produce savings, our financial position is strong, and we have a string of new products coming on stream."

Tempos, page 20



"Not frightened to take the medicine": John Carter, chief executive of Hepworth

Fall-off in Japan slows Unitech

By PHILIP PANGALOS

LOWER demand in Japan and the United Kingdom took its toll on Unitech, the international electronic components group. Full-year profits suffered a 34.7 per cent decline.

Unitech is cutting its dividend to 5.85p (11.7p) a share for the year, after a proposed halved final payout of 3.75p (7.5p), reflecting a new dividend policy outlined at the interim stage and the tough trading conditions.

Peter Curry, chairman, said that more than 80 per cent of the group's profits come from

overseas, causing problems with advance corporation tax (ACT), which can only be offset against United Kingdom earnings.

Sharply reduced profits from Japan were largely responsible for a slide in Unitech's total pre-tax profits to £12 million in the year to end-May, down from £18.5 million. Group sales fell to £251.8 million (£256.8 million).

Profits from Nemic-Lambda, Unitech's 51 per cent-owned Japanese power supply

subsidiary, were sharply reduced in the second half. Mr Curry said the American businesses, which account for about 30 per cent of sales, have "seen the worst", with trading levels showing signs of improvement.

Net debt was reduced to £40.9 million (£54.5 million), helped by the proceeds from the £10.8 million disposal of Rathdown, the coin-operated payphone business sold in May. Earnings slipped to 7.3p a share, down from 11.5p. The shares firmed 6p to 144p.

Results war waged at auction houses

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

SOTHEBY'S accused Christie's of misrepresenting its end-of-season results to imply it was about to overtake its rival. The clash came when the smaller auction house attempted to put a gloss on poor figures resulting from the art market slump.

Christie's claimed an improvement on market share from 43 per cent two years ago to 49 per cent this year. But the increase — mentioned but not highlighted in its statement — reflected the addition of £22 million earned from private treaty sales to the nation of works such as Holbein's *A Lady with a Squirrel and a Starling*.

"This is misleading because such sales have nothing to do with auction sales," said Michael Ainslie, president of Sotheby's, who claims his market share remains constant at 52 per cent. "If we wanted to report private treaty sales our figure would be substantially more than theirs."

David Tyler, Christie's managing director, said: "We have had a lot of consignments this year where the vendor has asked us to sell privately. Sotheby's haven't had the same sort of property obviously and therefore it suits their book not to include it in the figures."

According to Christie's, its worldwide sales total of £609 million from August 1991 to July 1992 meant an 8 per cent fall on the previous season. However, sales since January this year rose 6 per cent on last time. Christie's says market share has risen to "about 54 per cent of the European market compared to Sotheby's in the 1991-2 season".

Sotheby's said its art auction sales for the period in question (excluding private treaty sales) totalled \$1.14 billion, thereby maintaining a 52 per cent share of the world market.

Turnover at Phillips, the third-largest auction house, was £85.3 million against £118.27 million for the boom year of 1989-90, while that for Bonhams was £22.12 million, up 2.3 per cent.

T Cowie optimistic after half-time jump

T COWIE, the motor dealer currently bidding for fellow dealer Henry's, has bucked the gloom in its sector with a 56 per cent rise in profits in the first half of this year. Pre-tax profits of £12.1 million (£7.75 million), on a turnover of £322.6 million (£291.5 million), were in line with the group's forecast made on July 3 and, as then indicated, the interim dividend rises from 1.5p to 2p. Sir Tom Cowie, the chairman, said there had been significant achievements in each of the divisions and that he looked forward "with great optimism".

Sir Tom said there had been welcome relief in the March Budget, though the real benefits of a reduction in special car tax and the threshold for capital allowances would be felt more fully when business confidence was finally restored. Cowie's motor division was well placed to take full advantage of any positive change in trading conditions in the motor retailing sector.

Tempos, page 20

Harry Ramsden's grows

HARRY Ramsden's, the Yorkshire-based fish and chip shop operator, says it will open 15 restaurants in the United Kingdom and Ireland by 1995 and has franchise partners in place to open outlets in the Pacific rim and Middle East regions. The USM-quoted company unveiled a small rise in pre-tax profits to £76,706 (£73,559) in the half-year to March 29 on turnover ahead at £728,288 (£714,631). Earnings climbed to 0.9p (0.8p) a share. The interim dividend is maintained at 1p. The shares firmed 2p to 137p.

Loss for John Jacobs

JOHN I Jacobs, the shipping and shipbroking group, is maintaining its interim dividend at 0.5p despite sliding into the red. The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £408,000 in the six months to end-June, against a profit of £270,000 last time, as turnover declined from £2.06 million to £1.13 million. There was an exceptional credit of £50,000. The sale of the Jacobs Offshore subsidiary was responsible for an extraordinary gain of £2.91 million. The shares eased 1p to 27p.

Freeman pays dividend

FREEMAN Group, the USM-quoted fabricator and insulation materials supplier, is resuming dividend payments after a recovery in profits. Pre-tax profits were £550,000 in the six months to end-June, against a loss of £62,000 last time. Turnover, affected by discontinued activities, fell to £28 million (£40 million). Turnover on continuing activities grew 4 per cent. The interim dividend is 2p (3p) a share. The company had passed its final dividend after 1991's full-year profits slumped to £342,000 (£2 million).

Life Sciences improves

LIFE Sciences International, the scientific instruments group, says that trading conditions in the six months to end-June were the toughest since new management took over five years ago. Pre-tax profits for the interim period rose from £7.74 million to £8.48 million on sales of £50.7 million (£39.5 million). The interim dividend is raised from 1.15p to 1.2p a share. Growth in net earnings was restricted to 3 per cent partly because of a higher tax charge. The group had cash holdings of £2.5 million at June 30.

CIA bucks trends

CIA Group, the independent media buyer, is raising its dividend after bucking industry trends with a 27 per cent advance in first half profits which were pre-tax profits at the USM-quoted company rose to £7.87 million in the six months to end-June, against £1.47 million last time. Organic growth and acquisitions helped raise turnover by 47 per cent to £116.3 million. CIA, which has net cash of £8 million, proposes an interim dividend of 1.32p (1.15p) a share. Earnings rise rose by 26 per cent to 8.59p a share.

Dale profits leap 50%

SHARES in Dale Electric International, the power systems group, rose 5p to 79p on the announcement of a 50 per cent rise in pre-tax profit and an upbeat statement on prospects. A restructuring of the group and strong performances from some of the overseas operations pushed profit before exceptional items for the year to end-May from £1.29 million to £1.94 million. The final dividend is being held at 3.1p, making a same again 5.1p total payout for the year.

Simon wins contract

SIMON Engineering has won a US\$75 million export order to supply specialist machines and services to Sao Paulo fire service in Brazil. A preliminary agreement valued at \$50 million was reached earlier this year, and additions are valued at \$25 million. Under the terms of the contract, Simon Access, a subsidiary, will supply more than 80 million-purpose fire-fighting vehicles to supplement the large fleet of Simon snorkels and ladder systems already in service in Brazil.

Wales to get 500 jobs

A WELSH-Japanese venture will create 500 new electronics jobs in the Gwent Valley, an unemployment black spot. The Gooding Group of Gwent and Sanku Electric of Japan are investing £18 million in a 60,000 sq ft factory at Abercromby, that will manufacture electric switching systems and transformers when it opens in February. The plant is being built by the Welsh Development Agency which is creating 600,000 sq ft of industrial space in the principality.

Swissair on even course

SWISS national carrier Swissair-Schweizerische Luftverkehr AG is confident its 1992 results would match 1991 levels. In 1991 it reported group net profits of SwFr83 million (£32.2 million) after a 1990 loss of SwFr22 million (£8.8 million). Swissair said gross profits in the first six months this year eased to SwFr81 million (£32.4 million) from SwFr86 million (£34.4 million) in the first half last year. (Reuters)

BMW lifts interims by 10.5%

FROM REUTERS IN BONN

BMW, the luxury car maker, reported a 10.5 per cent rise in group net profit for the first six months of 1992 and expects production in the full year to surpass the 1991 record.

The profit of DM421 million against DM381 million last year was slightly below forecasts. Analysts had expected between DM430 million and DM440 million.

BMW said first-half sales surged 12.0 per cent to DM16.16 billion, mainly due to strong sales of the 3-series, now available worldwide.

Although BMW forecast that production would top 1991's record of 553,230 cars and 33,980 motorcycles, it was cautious about forecasting higher profits. "All attempts are aimed at continuing the development of the company's profitability despite more difficult economic conditions."

Analysts have little doubt it will boost 1992 profits after raising 1991 profits by 12.5 per cent to DM782.7 million. But BMW said the growth rate in the second half would be lower than the first half due to competition, the loss of sales in the first half when it was a credit, and output of the 3-series, the gradual normalisation of the German market after the recession boom, rising 9.9 per cent to DM7.1 billion. Sales in other European countries rose 17 per cent to DM5.2 billion.

Despite strong demand for all its models, BMW was cautious about the outlook for global car sales. It did not expect a full recovery this year.

Saville Gordon in profit

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE elimination of losses in the security and commodity dealing subsidiary and a reduction in the interest charge has helped J. Saville Gordon, the stockholding and investments group, to return to the black.

Profits before tax for the 12 months to end April were £3.8 million compared with a £2.3 million loss for the previous year.

The biggest turnaround was in the securities trading division, which recorded a profit of £1.8 million, against a £3.7 million loss for the previous year. Most of the division's holdings were sold during the year and it ceased to trade at the year end. This contributed to a reduction in gearing from 92 per cent to 73 per cent during the year. The funds released by the move will be used to expand the property portfolio or to further reduce debt.

The property investment and development division reported profits virtually unchanged at £5.4 million. The division benefited from a number of rent reviews, but this was partially offset by lower profits on property disposals.

The company has several rent reviews due in the current year, which will add further to rental income.

The pipeline equipment and stockholding division produced profits of £1.1 million, down from £1.7 million. The group interest charge fell from £6.5 million to £3.8 million. An unchanged 1.7p dividend makes a same again 2.2p payout for the year.

UK scores low on Tokyo sharing scale

By RODNEY HOBSON

BRITISH businesses are improving their quality and reliability — but their singing needs to be worked on.

Japanese companies surveyed by Touche Ross, the accountant, said their relationship with British suppliers had improved over the past five years. In fact, the Japanese rated British enterprises more highly than the British rated themselves.

Egmont Kock of Touche says: "UK companies underestimate the advantages of the

quality, cost and availability of British labour. These are all things where the Japanese see we have an advantage. UK companies should have more confidence in dealing with Japanese companies."

The price of British goods was not seen as a stumbling block. No mention was made of any problems with the workers. Nor do the Japanese think they can get a better performance from continental suppliers. However, the Japanese do not think the British yet meet oriental standards. The difficulty, according to the

survey, is that the British do not entirely understand the Japanese concept of partnership. Mr Kock says: "In most business relationships in the UK the interface is minimal. The Japanese expect a relationship to be based on trust. They want it to be long term and symbiotic."

Touche suggests the responses contradict the belief held here that Japanese manufacturers are reluctant to work with British companies. What the Japanese want is a greater commitment to customer satisfaction and to deliv-

ering the goods on time. One Japanese executive said: "The key is sharing and creating a partnership. We need a joint approach to costs, service and quality."

But the British must become more flexible. Mr Kock says: "The Japanese take socialising as seriously as business. The British want to go home after work." Placid British attempts at karaoke have a long way to go. Touche found that the Japanese practise their "spontaneous" singing in multi-story karaoke rehearsal parties.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES in conjunction with NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY FIELD DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN

Marine Mammal Studies Program, Baja, Mexico

A Director will lead faculty and 30 undergraduates in summer and semester programs in an interdisciplinary, hands-on, field orientated research program. Will manage all aspects of the site, live on-site in a remote field setting and provide academic leadership for faculty and students.

Qualifications: PhD preferred, MS minimum, solid administrative, research and field experience. Must have experience in the region and have applied background in the specific focus of the centre. For BAJA: must speak Spanish and understand conversation issues related to marine mammals in the region.

TO APPLY: Send letter and CV to: TL - Search, School for Field Studies, 16 Broadway, Beverly, MA 01915. Tel:(508) 927 7777 or fax (508) 927 5127.

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Applications with full CV to: Marketing Manager, The Gould Group, Birmingham Road, Solihull, Warwick, CV34 4TT. Fax number, 0926 401882 (Int 44 926 401882) quoting ref: RP/7-92

SUPPLIES & SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR

International Direct Marketing Company seeks German-speaking Co-ordinator based at their Head Office near Stuttgart to administrate supplies and services to the U.K. Division.

Duties include co-operative liaison with U.K. Division, EDP co-ordination, planning and media buying, purchasing, stock control and transportation/distribution of goods.

While extensive training will be provided, organisational talent, numeracy, EDP skills and social compatibility are essential. Mail order experience would be an advantage.

This challenging opportunity in a growing organisation can ultimately lead to a position of responsibility in the U.K. within 2 years.

Applications, in the first instance, to The Managing Director, Mayfair Collection Ltd., 33 Aden & Eve Mews, London W8 6UG.

FELLOWSHIPS

SE POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN AGING RESEARCH

The University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), the University of Kansas (KU) and Marion Merrell Dow Foundation have established a Scientific Education Partnership dedicated to developing a regional center of excellence in modern biological and biomedical research related to diseases and treatment of the aging population.

A key element of the Partnership continues to be the awarding of Post Doctoral Fellowships in the following areas of basic research:

- Molecular immunobiology
- Protein structure and function
- Neuroscience
- Molecular genetics
- Molecular pharmacology
- Developmental molecular biology

Research activities may be conducted in the laboratories of university mentors at either UMKC or KU.

Appointments will be for 2 years at a stipend of \$30,000 (year 1) and \$35,000 (year 2), less fringe benefits costs.

For further information, individuals with background and interest in these areas of basic science should write or fax (816-966-4400):

Anthony J. Hancock, PhD
Director, Scientific Partnerships
Marion Merrell Dow Inc.
P.O. Box 8480
Kansas City, MO 64114-0480

Inquiry for information should be received no later than September 15, 1992.

Deadline for completion of application is February 1, 1993.

MARION MERRELL DOW FOUNDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

group
alls in
rivers

Big firms

American economy slows sharply in second quarter

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Bush's hopes of re-election in November were further undermined yesterday by government figures that showed the American economy slowing sharply in the second quarter after a promising start to the year.

The Commerce Department said the gross domestic product grew 1.4 per cent in the second quarter, after seasonal adjustment, less than half the revised 2.9 per cent expansion seen in the first quarter.

Weak consumer spending, which accounts for about two thirds of total activity, played a crucial role in the slowdown, contracting 0.3 per cent in the second quarter after a 5.1 per cent surge in the previous three months. Exports disappointed too and much of higher production went into stockpiling.

Nicholas Brady, the treasury secretary, sought to counter fears about the economy turning down, confirming

the administration's faith in "solid growth" next year and in 1994. The administration has given a warning that the recovery would be jagged.

Though not as weak as the final quarter of 1991, which saw only 0.6 per cent growth, the second-quarter data fuelled doubts among Wall Street economists about the durability of the recovery. Revised figures for 1990 and 1991 revealed America's recession to have been longer and more severe than previously reported.

Instead of shrinking for two quarters in a row, the economy is now shown to have contracted for three, with GDP in the third quarter of 1990 declining 1.6 per cent, instead of growing 0.2 per cent, as had been estimated. This meant that the economy fell 2.2 per cent from peak to trough, considerably more than the previously estimated 1.6 per cent decline. Antonio Villa,

chief economist at the Commerce Department, said the economy should grow at an annual rate of about 3 per cent in the second half of this year, but that developments in employment would be crucial. In the first half of this year, GDP growth averaged 2.2 per cent.

Separate data out yesterday provided some encouragement. New home sales soared 7.9 per cent in June after four months of declines. First-time claimants for unemployment benefits also fell to 400,000 in the week ended July 18, the lowest for 21 months.

But Angus Armstrong, US economist at Morgan Grenfell, said the latest figures showed no sector robust enough to fuel stronger growth. He expects stronger consumer spending and housing figures for July and August, but fears that there will be further weakening before the presidential election. He expects GDP to grow 1.8 per cent in the third quarter and 2 per cent in the fourth.

A forecast of economic performance in Britain's regions shows East Anglia leading the way to recovery with 1 per cent growth this year, followed by the North West with an increase in output of 0.8 per cent.

But the BSL Business Strategies outlook, published yesterday, has sharply downgraded the growth forecast for the whole economy since the last report. It now expects only 0.1 per cent growth at the national level, a full percentage point below its February prognosis.

BSL's growth expectations for the regions vary considerably. The South East is seen shrinking 0.4 per cent this year and the West Midlands dropping 0.2 per cent. Next year, the forecast for the whole economy is growth of 2.8 per cent, with the South East bouncing back to 3.3 per cent growth, ahead of East Anglia at 3.2 per cent. The North West will experience the weakest growth in 1993, expanding only 1.9 per cent, BSL forecast.

Comment, page 21
Peter Riddell, page 12

Early votes support WPP refinancing

By MARTIN WALLER

ALMOST all the shareholders in WPP Group, the debt-plagued advertising combine, who have so far voted on the refinancing to be considered by a special meeting next week are in favour, sources close to the company have indicated.

So far, of the proxy votes received ahead of next Wednesday's meeting, more than 95 per cent of both ordinary and preference holders support the plan, which involves the banks taking new shares at 60p in exchange for debt. But these do not include Fidelity, the American fund manager which opposes the financial rescue.

Barry Bateman, Fidelity's managing director, for his part claimed holders as many as half of the preference shares, including the 10 per cent Fidelity owns, are unhappy about the refinancing.

He said he had been in touch with investors represent-

ing between 30 and 40 per cent of the issue who wanted the terms on offer to preference holders improved. The scheme needs a 75 per cent vote of approval from the preference shares. Fidelity has not said formally how it will vote at the meeting, however, and Mr Bateman said the fund had not asked other holders of their plans.

"We're prepared to vote against, but the final decision will be made later on," he said.

His assessment of support was immediately denied by sources in the WPP camp, who said they believe Fidelity stands largely alone in its fight to sweeten the terms on offer. If the vote at the meeting goes against the refinancing, the company, the largest advertising and marketing group in the world, will probably go into "restructuring", leaving shareholders with little or nothing.



Weighed down: Tom Farmer of Kwik-Fit expects to maintain the dividend payment

Flat tyre sales hit Kwik-Fit hopes

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

TOM Farmer, chairman and chief executive of Kwik-Fit Holdings, has confirmed that the company's tyre sales are down.

But, in a statement yesterday, he emphasised that the group was faring no worse than the tyre replacement market as a whole, and that its market share was being maintained.

He added that the company expected "at least to maintain" its dividend to shareholders this year.

Mr Farmer was seeking to reassure investors, who have seen their shares plunge by

nearly 40 per cent this week, from 169p to 104.5p last night after leading analysts, including the company's joint brokers, Panmure Gordon and UBS Phillips & Drew, downgraded profit forecasts.

Expectations now focus on pre-tax profits of between £23 million and £26 million, against a £32.1 million result last year and earlier forecasts of more than £30 million.

Mr Farmer said he was aware of no other reason for the share price fall.

His statement pointed out that tyre sales had been "very buoyant" in the final quarter

of last year, but that so far this year they had been below last year's levels, especially in May, June and July.

He added that demand for other products continued "at a good level".

"The Kwik-Fit balance sheet remains strong, with relatively low borrowings, and the company is proceeding with its programme of opening additional outlets," the statement said.

The news provided only a temporary prop for the share price, which firmed 1p to 112p, before sliding to close at 104.5p.

Touche Ross and Bank sweeten BCCI payout plan

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE liquidator of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International and the Bank of England have sweetened the terms on offer to the bank's small creditors to encourage them to back the \$3 billion compensation plan.

Touche Ross, the liquidator, is meanwhile planning to contact more than 50,000 BCCI creditors in Britain and the Continent over the next two weeks to glean their reaction to the scheme. This is in response to a request from the Luxembourg courts, which refused to back the plan two weeks ago and scheduled a hearing for October.

The Bank of England's Deposit Protection Board has agreed to take only three quarters of its entitlement from the \$1.7 billion contribution to the compensation scheme planned by the Abu Dhabi government, which holds 77 per cent of BCCI equity.

The remaining funds will be divided up among BCCI's smaller creditors, who are already allowed to claim up to 75 per cent of their losses from the board.

This means a BCCI depositor who lost £10,000 in the crash, and is able to claim £7,500 from the Deposit Protection Board, will receive an additional, estimated £500 if the compensation plan is approved.

The board has now made 4,600 payments to BCCI depositors worth more than £25 million. Touche is processing another 16,000 claims. The board pays out 75 per cent of depositors' losses up to a maximum of £15,000.

Touche reached the agreement with the Bank of England earlier this year but it has remained unpublished until now.

The additional funds will help Touche in its increasingly bitter struggle to persuade BCCI's creditors to accept its compensation plan, which will repay between 30 and 40 per cent of their losses.

Touche's letter will describe the pros and cons of accepting the scheme. It will ask creditors to state whether they approve of the plan to pool BCCI's worldwide assets, and whether they back the compensation plan.

The liquidator also plans to

advertise in national newspapers, asking creditors to come forward with their comments. The Luxembourg court wants to gauge the opinion of BCCI's ordinary creditors before it decides on the scheme.

Touche is worried that a small number of BCCI depositors are trying to block the plan, even though the Abu Dhabi government has insisted its offer of a \$1.7 billion cash injection is final, and the only alternative is a protracted international legal battle to recover funds from the Abu Dhabi government.

A group of depositors, led by Dr Adil Elias, a businessman, believes the offer from the Abu Dhabi government is inadequate.

The depositors want the Luxembourg court to block the plan to force Touche to renegotiate.

The plan has already been approved by courts in London and the Cayman Islands.

Ansbacher says talks continue

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE preliminary negotiations between the main shareholders in Henry Ansbacher and fellow merchant bank Singer & Friedlander are continuing, Ansbacher announced yesterday.

However, the bank said it had nothing to add to the original statement in May and the shares were unchanged at 28p. Singer & Friedlander is talking to Pargess Holding, which has 62 per cent, and Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, about a possible takeover of Ansbacher.

The bank unveiled interim pre-tax profits of £1.9 million for the six months to end June against £1.1 million last year. For the year to end December Ansbacher made a £8.2 million loss after making heavy loan provisions. The profit increase was driven mainly by strong performances from the offshore operations and asset trading.

As usual there is no interim dividend.

PR group calls in receivers

By OUR CITY STAFF

CORPORATE Communications, the parent company of Charles Barker Georgeson, the public relations group, called in receivers yesterday. Corporate Communications, itself ultimately controlled by US Fidelity & Guaranty, a Baltimore property and insurance group, was brought down by spiralling central costs in the London operation which threatened the future of the various subsidiaries, all of which continue to operate profitably, according to a spokesman.

The public relations businesses have been salvaged by two management buy-outs, one of which will acquire the financial pr operations in New York and London and house them under the Georgeson International Inc name.

Tony Canning, former chairman of Corporate Communications, will be chairman, with Bill Crane, who headed the New York business, chief executive.

The other, which will retain the Charles Barker name, will acquire the group's corporate, marketing and public affairs activities, and will be headed by Angela Heytin. It is hoped that yesterday's moves would not lead to any job losses among the 100 staff.

Nadir fails to block SFO charges move

By OUR CITY STAFF

ASIL Nadir, former chairman and chief executive of Polly Peck International, the collapsed fresh fruit, hotels and electronics group, failed yesterday in a High Court move to block an attempt by the Serious Fraud Office to reinstate criminal charges against him, which were struck out by a judge last month.

The court rejected Mr Nadir's claim that the High Court had no jurisdiction to review the decision by Mr Justice Tucker to dismiss 46 theft charges.

The SFO had sought an order reinstating the charges. But Lord Justice Woolf, sitting with Mr Justice Pill, said the court could not decide the matter until the House of Lords had ruled on a similar issue in another case. The hearing of the reinstatement move was adjourned.

The jurisdiction argument may go to the law lords before the SFO's case for reinstatement can be heard in full. The judges agreed with Mr Nadir's lawyers that the jurisdiction question raised a point of law of general public importance. This leaves it open to the lawyers to petition the law lords for leave to appeal.

Mr Nadir is alleged to have stolen at least £151 million from PPI between August

1987 and August 1990. But Mr Justice Tucker ruled in June that 46 of the charges against Mr Nadir disclosed no evidence of appropriation from PPI within the meaning of the 1968 Theft Act.

The SFO argued the judge was wrong in law, and that his decision was open to review by the High Court because it was not an integral part of the pending trial.

Since Mr Justice Tucker's decision, the prosecution has been given leave to amend the indictment to add a further 44 counts to the 20 counts that survived his ruling.



Nadir court rejection

Disney shares slide

By MARTIN WALLER

EURO Disneyland, believed to be running behind target on the number of visitors originally expected at the park outside Paris, may also be missing forecasts on what they spend once they get there.

The company, whose shares continued their long slide with another 32p fall to 908p on the stock market yesterday, has published third quarter figures showing revenue at the park of FF1.016 billion in the three months to end-June.

Nigel Reed, leisure analyst at Paribas, says this suggests average spend per visitor of FF148 on the rides, souvenirs, meals and other discretionary spending. The company's earlier assessments of spending, adjusted for inflation, were looking for FF166 per person, he said.

Nicolas de Schoonen, head of corporate communications at Euro Disneyland, said spending on consumer products was "absolutely on budget" at the park. The group has already admitted that in the current year it would report a loss, against predictions of profits in the share offer documents at the time of the 1989 share issue. Mr Reed forecast FF300 million losses this year and next and no dividends.

Big firms could do more for over-40s

By DEREK HARRIS

ON STAFF and management training and development big companies could do better — especially for the increasingly valuable resource represented by those in their 40s — even though three quarters of the companies have maintained or even increased their spending in this area during the recession. This contrasts with earlier recessions when there had been a tendency to cut back on training.

One problem is that management appraisals are in danger of becoming mere annual rituals according to a new survey into corporate human resources by Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants and management consultants. The report is based on Gallup research involving senior executives of more than 100 of Britain's top companies.

There is increasing recognition of the growing demands on managers in leader-

organisations, the survey shows. However appraisal systems do not seem to prompt action on individual development, there being only two-fifths of companies with defined arrangements in place to equip managers with the skills needed to be effective.

Sheila Drew Smith, Coopers & Lybrand partner in charge of the survey, said: "Our work shows close links between investing in people and business success. The survey found that companies recognise the importance of their people but they must focus their training activities more effectively if they are to compete successfully in international markets."

The survey also takes companies to task for doing relatively little for the development of those in their 40s at a time when demographic changes mean increasingly a workforce with an older age profile. If older and experienced people are not equipped with the skills they need, it could

put the country's economic survival in jeopardy, the report warns. Fewer than one in three companies have specific development policies for the older age group and less than one in seven were considering introducing any. New skills shortages were also highlighted by the survey. Recession has removed traditional craft shortages except in a few sectors like the oil industry. Now four shortages are said to be looming. They are in managerial and professional skills, language skills, understanding applications of information technology, and supervisory skills.

Many of the companies surveyed were "seriously concerned" about staff adequacy, while multinationals were worried on how to develop managers to win in a global market.

People's Training and Development, available from Roger White, Coopers & Lybrand, Plumtree Court, London EC4A 4HT.

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TEMPUS

French boost for hard-working Harrisons

HEROIC attempts to convert the French to the pleasures of breakfast cereals helped Harrisons & Crossfield to beat market forecasts and report pre-tax profits up 12 per cent to £40.6 million in the first half. But it was the maintained dividend of 3.6p that was more significant in prompting a 9p rise to 137p on the stock market.

That payment suggested that the full-year total would be maintained at 9p, although it will probably not be covered on most profit estimates. Harrisons is a former colonial plantation business that diversified into recession-prone chemicals and building materials at the wrong time.

The share price has relied heavily on yield while shareholders await the full benefits of restructuring. A maintained payment offers the shares, at their higher level, the support of an 8.8 per cent prospective yield. The half-year performance was creditable, given the areas in which the group, whose chief executive is George Paul, operates. Chemicals were a mixed bag, with improved demand for American chrome but continuing weakness in iron oxide pigments. Timber and building materials were surprisingly resilient in depressed markets, aided by cost savings.

In food, lower malt deliveries to the embattled distillers and brewers meant an 8 per cent profit setback; the company suffers disproportionately from recession in the drinks trade as most brewers have in-house malting businesses from which they source in hard times. Plantations were a bright spot and will see further progress this year.

BOCM Silcock, bought last



Cereal numbers: George Paul, chief executive of Harrisons & Crossfield, which saw first-half profits rise 12 per cent

month, should chip in a net £3 million in the second half. Bob Carpenter at Kleinwort Benson expects £92 million pre-tax, including £8 million from property sales. While the downside is limited by the chunky yield, a prospective earnings multiple of 15.6 suggests that further progress by the shares might be limited.

Hepworth

IF THE interim figures from Hepworth make one thing clear it is the brilliance of the Saunier Duval acquisition in April 1990. The French combination gas boiler maker is making tremendous strides on the other side of the Pyrenees as the Spanish introduce gas into their city sub-

urbs, and has already taken a useful foothold in Turkey, which is following suit. SD has been able to inflate its operating margins, pumping up its profits contribution by £3 million to £13.5 million, and promises more of the same in the second half, when Hepworth will lean more heavily on its overseas operations.

Hepworth, commendably prompt with its figures as usual — the half year ended on June 30 — makes a number of other things clear. One is that management can do little about the conditions it which it operates — 60 per cent of the business is still in the UK, where it serves the industry bearing the brunt of the recession and its observations about the home economy are depressing indeed.

given that its drains are the first requirement for any new building, and it sees no sign of upturn. Action to date has been vigorous and promises to be more so, with severe rationalisation in store for the refractories arm over the next few months. In fact, refractories, where profits halved to £4.5 million in the first six months, will do well to make money at all in the second half.

The group may take approaching £10 million of exceptional above the line in the second half, as the group adopts a policy that assumes no upturn, and trims capacity into line with demand. This could mean the pre-tax figure for the six months ended June 30 at £12.1 million (£7.75 million) were much in line with expectations. The dividend at 2p (1.5p) was in line with

forecast. Cowie has derived benefit from last November's deal to buy contract hire business from The Royal Bank of Scotland for £38 million, and profits from the finance division jumped from £4.98 million to £8.16 million. The real kick from positive Budget measures in March has yet to be felt.

New cars represent only 6 per cent of Cowie's profits, so while a robust K-Day this Saturday would please Cowie, a poor day would not mean it has to struggle to pay the rent.

Of significance in the middle of the bid battle for Henlys is the profit advances that Cowie has managed to achieve across the board. Profits from bus and coach operations and distribution are up, as were profits from agricultural, industrial and horticultural interests.

T Cowie

T COWIE, despite the overall economic gloom and uncertainty about car sales, is motoring along nicely. Having signalled an advance in profits and dividends as part of its tactics in the bid for Henlys, pre-tax profits for the six months ended June 30 at £12.1 million (£7.75 million) were much in line with expectations. The dividend at 2p (1.5p) was in line with

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Sir Tom Cowie, chairman, undoubtedly with the bid in mind, says the group faces the future "with great optimism". The market shares that view, and looks for year-end pre-tax profits of about £25 million (£18.2 million). At 132p, up 4p, the shares trade on 9.2 times prospective earnings, backed by a 6.6 per cent yield. Considering the shares' strong performance in the past year the road ahead for the share price could be in third gear — but that is not to deny that they are still attractive.

As for the Henlys bid, Cowie's one-for-two share offer still cries out for a cash alternative, if not a sweetener. The next closing date is August 1, and if the terms are to be changed, then it must be done by August 18.

An announcement before that date would not surprise.

Tokyo prices lifted by overseas strength

Tokyo — Shares jumped and the Nikkei index closed 459.65 points, or 3.04 per cent, higher at 15,555.60. Much of the buying was a technical response to recent falls, sparked by strong overseas markets and firm futures prices, but there was also some buying of blue chips.

The market opened firmer on gains in New York and European markets. The Nikkei rose 144.72 points in 15 minutes. Investors kept expecting a drop after the early buying ran its course, but placed cautious new orders as the market remained higher. The Nikkei reached its peak for the day — 490.36 points up — in the late afternoon.

The news that the government wants to bring economy-boosting measures forward to August from September also helped, although it was not a big factor. Turnover fell to about 220 million shares, against 259 million shares on Wednesday. Rising shares outnumbered falls by two to one, with 656 higher, 319

lower and 125 unchanged. The key rises were the brokerage, non-life insurance, banking, communications, oil, warehouse, service, railway/bus, pharmaceuticals and property sectors. No sector declined.

Frankfurt — For the second time this week, a plunge in the Allianz price was enough to outweigh strength in most blue chips and so pull the market's value down. A DM 79 drop in Allianz, Europe's largest insurer — which alone makes up about an eighth of the 30-share Dax index — dragged the Dax 4.16 points lower to 1,623.99 at the close. Gains in chemicals and other industrials made no impact. Helmut Siegers, at Dresdner Bank, said: "Without the bad news about Allianz, the Dax would be definitely higher. It would be 15 points higher." The 4 per cent drop at Allianz yesterday, to a new year's low of DM 1,872, came on top of a DM 66 fall on Tuesday.

(Reuters)

US blue chips edge up

New York — Blue chips were marginally higher in choppy, late-morning trading, with some buyers attracted by the market's strong momentum that had been built up during this week's powerful two-day rally. The Dow Jones industrial average was ahead by just 0.81 of a point at 3,380 after having fluctuated in a range of about 9 points.

Singapore — Shares ended lower after a new round of Chinese-British talks about the financing of Hong Kong's

new airport failed to reach agreement. The Hang Seng index fell 27.46 points to 5,829.83.

Sydney — Prices closed modestly firmer after disappointing local economic data overrode the effect of strong gains on overseas markets. The all-ordinaries index closed 8.7 points up at 1,621.

Singapore — Shares ended lower after a new round of Chinese-British talks about the financing of Hong Kong's

(Reuters)

Novo cash call to fund capital restructuring

By PHILIP PANGALOS

NOVO Group, the revamped EMC Group that specialises in media storage and distribution, is seeking to raise £8.8 million via a 16-for-3 rights issue, at a deeply discounted 30p a share.

The company plans to use the proceeds from the issue, which is fully underwritten by Williams de Broé, the stockbroker, to fund expansion and a capital reorganisation that will clear up the group's share capital.

The capital reorganisation will involve conversion of various preference shares into ordinary shares, redemption of preference shares and the repayment of outstanding loan notes.

Novo is acquiring Walport International and its subsidiaries and the outstanding 50

per cent shareholding in Walport Telmar Scandinavia for a total of £3.26 million. Walport, the world's largest supplier of rented visual entertainment to the commercial shipping industry, made profits of £680,000 in the year to end-March 1990, on a turnover of £3.08 million.

Novo also announced pre-tax profits of £1.08 million in the year to end-March, compared with a restated £158,000 in the previous 18-month period.

Turnover stood at £12.83 million, against £9.45 million in the comparative 18-month period.

There was an extraordinary debit of £354,000. Earnings rose to 10.1p against 1.44p a share. No dividend will be paid. Last time, there was a payout of 1.6p a share.

Sharp insight, strong opinion, three letters.

It is in cruel contrast with the proud record of long-term investment that even a cut payment has to be funded by the partial dissolution of the company.

12 June 1992

It is perhaps time for the board to do the decent thing and break up the company themselves.

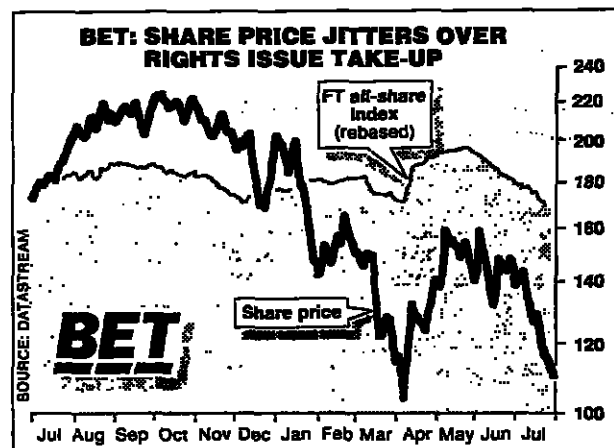
13 June 1992

Lex. It's abrasive. It's opinionated. And with any luck you and your company will never feel the force of its criticism.

The Lex column is required daily reading for captains of industry who want to remain at the helm.

No FT...no comment.

Surging ICI shares help limit damage as index ends lower



Shares. The news from ICI also benefited Cowie, up 10p at 464p, which demerged its chemical interests recently. Other chemical companies enjoyed an early mark-up, but failed to keep their gains with Allied Colloids finishing 2p cheaper at 174p. Croda International falling 1p to 165p. Ellis & Everard dropping 1p to 159p. Laporte slipping 1p to

rise in interim profits on Wednesday. BT eased 1p to 345p in the wake of its annual meeting. Visteo, the USM-quoted computer services group, firmed 1p to 224p after Bob Morton, the chairman, told the annual meeting that trading for the current year was showing an encouraging improvement. BET was left hovering just

Marks and Spencer fell 8p to 311p after a large line of stock went through the market. Cazenove placed 21.15 million shares at 305p each on behalf of the trustees of the M&S Pension Fund. The fund said it was advised against self-investment but continues to hold 2.55 million shares in an index-tracking fund.

532p and Leigh International declining 5p to 226p. But the pharmaceuticals companies put up a better performance, with Fisons rising 10p to 173p, and SmithKline Beecham a gain of 5p to 472p.

Rothmans International B jumped 16p to £10.50 before today's annual meeting. Rival BAT Industries, down 7p to 749p, reported a 55 per cent

above its low for the year, finishing 3p down at 109p. Dealers are becoming worried that the institutions may give the cold shoulder to the group's £200 million rights issue. The one-for-four rights issue was initiated to buy back the bulk of the group's auction market preference share issue. These complicated, dollar-denominated issues proved pop-

ular with some big companies a few years ago, but have turned out to be a costly way of raising funds.

Claremont, the Marks and Spencer supplier floated off from Alexon, was steady at 217p. Almost 90 per cent of its recent rights issue to raise £25 million for the acquisition of J&J Fashion was taken up.

HSBC slipped 2p to 335p. Its recently acquired subsidiary, Midland Bank, moved back into the black, with pre-tax profits of £89 million, against a loss last time of £71 million. Barclays fell 4p to 318p and National Westminster 4p to 326p, while Lloyds firmed 3p to 422p.

Harrisons & Crossfield responded to better than expected trading news with a rise of 7p to 135p.

Kwik-Fit, the tyres and exhausts specialist, fell another 7p to 104p — making a three-day fall of 65p. Earlier this week, the company's joint brokers made big profit

downgradings. T Cowie, the motor distributor, rose 4p to 132p after weighing in with half-year figures exceeding its own profit forecast of £11.5 million. The group is currently bidding £28 million for Henlys.

Property shares came under further pressure following a downgrading of the sector earlier this week by BZW. Losses were recorded in British Land, 3p to 165p, Great Portland Estates, 7p to 110p, Greycoat, 3p to 24p, Ham-merson A, 26p to 213p, MEPC, 17p to 226p, Slough Estates, 3p to 114p, and Warner Estates, 3p to 145p.

MICHAEL CLARK

BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities suffered further losses as they continued to be dragged lower by weaker European bond markets.

Dealers reported losses of around £1/2 at the longer end in thin, volatile trading. They described selling pressure as minimal. Sentiment was also demoted by Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, ruling out any cut in German interest rates for the foreseeable future.

Bond prices on the Continent have been losing ground steadily in recent weeks amid growing concern about the upward pressure on interest rates. Dealers complain that investor confidence is being eroded by the poor economic outlook throughout Europe. Among the longs, Treasury 9 per cent 2008 dropped 19 ticks to £100, while among medium issues, Exchequer 10 1/2 per cent 1997 fell 10 ticks to £103 1/2.

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Listening out for borrowers

Midland's return to profits is heartening, but the bank's half-year figures highlight the dilemma that lies ahead of Hongkong Bank, its new parent. The most worrying feature was a 4 per cent fall in income. The City knew the recession would put bank income under pressure, but few guessed the slide could be so sudden and steep. Midland has lost little market share in the last six months, which implies that its rivals face similar shrinkage. Generations of lenders have grown accustomed to guaranteed income and asset growth, boosted by inflation. Now they can take neither for granted. Midland's total assets have fallen by more than £2 billion in the past year.

The fall hides the bank's many recent achievements. Management has brought costs under tight control, leaving them 4 per cent lower than 18 months ago. The bad debt profile is also looking healthier. The big question mark now hangs over future growth. The bank can cut costs and increase margins all it pleases, but unless it halts the decline in business it will be running hard to stand still. Little wonder that Brian Pearce, the chief executive, has halted the branch closure programme. He cannot afford to lose any more business. The bank still has a strong capital base, bolstered further by its new parent, to back growth, but loan demand is hovering between weak and non-existent.

The Hongkong Bank has moved quickly to consolidate its acquisition. Some of its brightest executives are now installed in key positions. Together with existing management, they must find what the economy shows little likelihood of providing — a stream of good quality new business.

Second thoughts

Captains of industry were, to a man, in favour of the European exchange-rate mechanism long before John Major persuaded Mrs Thatcher to swallow her misgivings and take us in. Now that the constraints of membership are beginning to hurt, support for the ERM is more muted. Two of Britain's most senior business leaders were yesterday advocating a German revaluation to provide headroom for domestic interest rate cuts. Sir Denis Henderson of ICI said it was clear with hindsight that Britain had entered at too high a rate. It would be helpful if the Chancellor could persuade his European colleagues that the mark was causing problems. Midland Bank's Brian Pearce was more outspoken. It was no good sticking slavishly to the ERM, only to find that we have no business left, he said.

Supporters of a mark revaluation may have forgotten that they advocated the very process of self-discipline now being enforced through high German interest rates. They once spoke in stoic terms of the benefits — a tougher attitude to pay, productivity and unit labour costs. They certainly wanted to reduce currency fluctuations and the disruption industry suffers when foreign exchanges are volatile.

Dreaming of a mark revaluation is not merely futile, it is a distraction. The opposition of Germany and France alone makes such a move most unlikely. Businessmen should accept the need to trim their sails and work within the constraints of membership. That means cutting still harder on costs. Fair-weather participation in the ERM is not an option.

ICI steals its critics' arguments to improve the chemistry of profits

Having seen off the challenge by Hanson, ICI has adopted its

logic by planning to split its business, says

Graham Searjeant

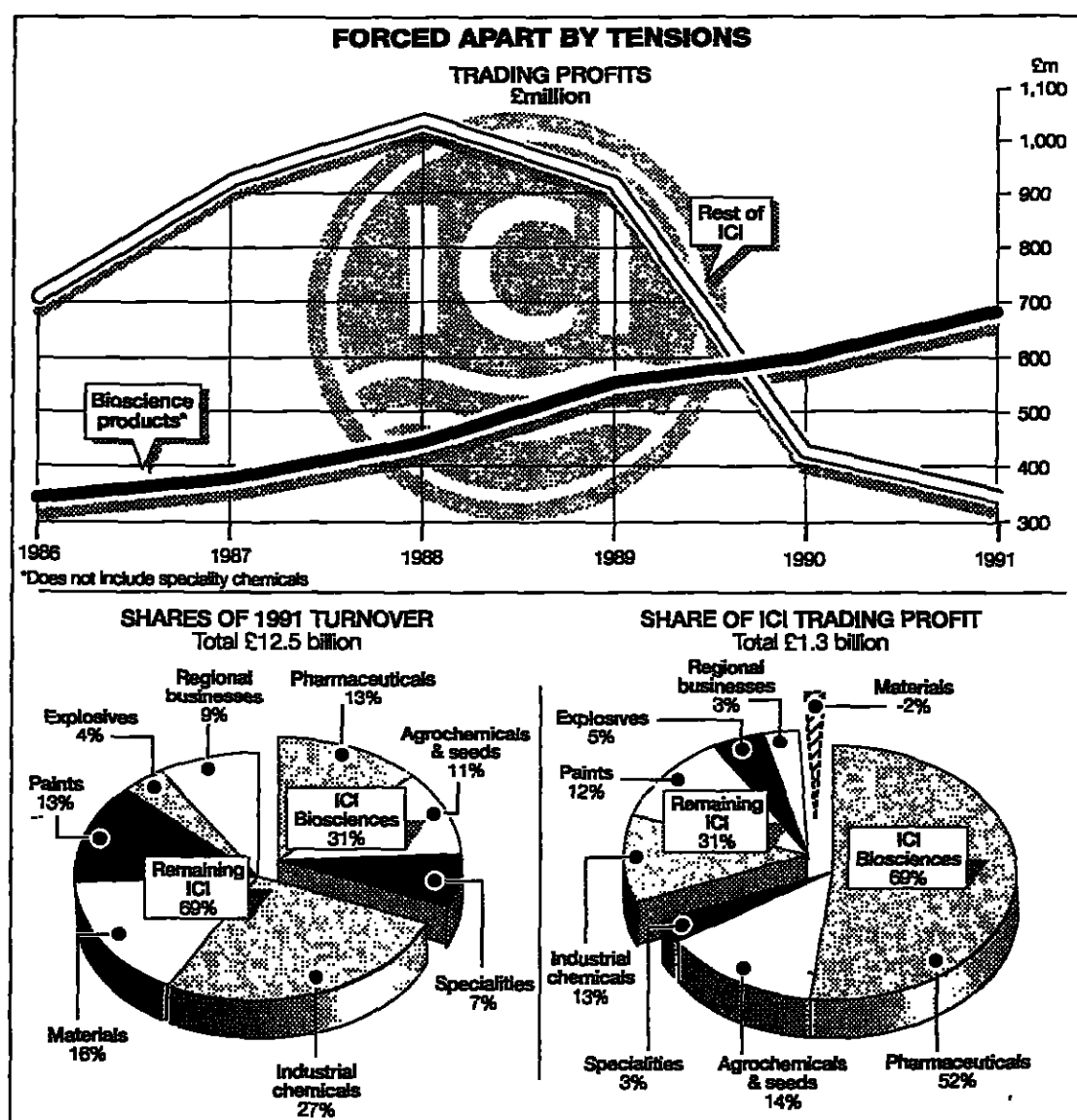
ICI's best kept secret was that it had changed its mind. Ever since the profits of its traditional, core chemical businesses started rolling down the slope of the latest international cycle, while drug profits continued to move serenely ahead, it has been apparent that the market value of ICI's parts is bigger than that of the whole. In 1988, the peak of the previous cycle, pharmaceuticals accounted for a fifth of group trading profits two years later, this had risen to almost half.

Sir Denis Henderson and his colleagues in the group's Millbank fortress only felt the need seriously to address the argument for splitting the group when Lord Hanson backed it in May last year, acquiring a share stake and saying he might be prepared to force the pace of change. They still rejected it.

Since then, they have clearly taken a critical look at their own objections, knocking them away one by one, while maintaining that they would do nothing so unlike ICI as to be driven by the dictates of the stock market. Ronnie Hampel, ICI's chief operating officer, says: "We decided we had reached the stage where our markets, not the stock market, might benefit from a split."

The central argument against a split was that an international chemicals group was a dynamic, evolving beast rather than a series of vaguely related businesses. Mr Hampel explains: "The history of the industry is that it is a business that regenerates itself. Most of the main businesses that sustained ICI when I started here, no longer exist." Sir Denis could readily support this argument by pointing to German and Swiss members of ICI's principal peer group, which also cover the gamut from ethical pharmaceuticals to basic industrial chemicals.

The drugs division was entirely home grown. Cash flow from mature businesses was used to fund pharmaceutical research on faith. This relationship was reversed only when ICI struck the jackpot with its heart drugs, particularly the beta-blocker Tenormin, which became one of the world's top-selling drugs. Even then, much of the money diverted from pharmaceuticals was used to fund research in new biological sectors, including that Millbank favourite, the microprotein meat substitute, Quorn. While ICI is justly proud of



having grown more than £500 million a year of drug profits on its own, this has recently become a necessity rather than a virtue. The group's share rating was not high enough to justify expanding the division by acquisition, at the prices such businesses fetch.

There were plenty of lesser, but internally compelling, arguments. Research was interrelated. Polymer scientists had come up with biodegradable plastic that enabled advances in drug production. Research in agrochemical and drug compounds was related. One of the strengths of ICI's pharmaceutical division was that it used the well-honed production facilities of the fine chemicals division.

Most of these arguments were countered by a simple piece of lateral thinking. Agrochemicals, seeds and most of the specialty chemical division, which had the strongest research and industrial links with

HOW THEY COMPARE:

	Turnover £bn	Pre-tax profit £m
Merck	4.5	1,688
Glaxo	4.1	1,470
SmithKline Beecham	4.7	1,002
ICI Bio	3.9	720*
Wellcome	1.8	403
Fisons	1.2	191

*Trading profits only @ Estimate

pharmaceuticals, could be put into a new, much bigger bioscience company. ICI found that it had two basic research streams rather than one. In turnover, ICI Biosciences would be 2.5 times the size of the pharmaceutical division alone. Even in profits, ICI Bio, as it is destined to be called, will be a third bigger. The removal of ICI as a universal bank would initially be resolved by raising cash for ICI Bio when it is floated. This

points to the essential change of heart in Millbank. While ICI was a colossus, as soon as challenges faced its main businesses, they were shown to be too thinly spread. In agrochemicals, it is a world leader. In pharmaceuticals, it ranks only about fifteenth. In the combination of other elements in ICI Bio will disguise this.

Similar calculations have caused soul-searching elsewhere in the group. ICI has already got out of fertilisers in disarray, thanks to Britain's competition authorities. The European Commission has been looking at another deal for ICI to sell its nylon interests to Du Pont, the big American chemical group, receiving acrylic interests in part exchange. ICI's development of potentially world-beating substitutes for CFCs exposed a lack of distribution power in world markets, particularly in America.

The stress on focusing ICI's businesses, an increasingly dominant

theme in group thinking even before last year's restructuring programme, is its own version of developments visible in companies ranging from GEC to Pilkington. The best long-term returns are to be made from significant shares of global markets, even apparently modest ones, in a narrower range of products. It took ICI longer than some to realise that British manufacturers are not big enough to be universal providers in any wide sector.

In theory, ICI will not make a final decision to split its operations until next February, but the mental die is already cast. Divisional chief executives were unanimously positive when told of the change, not least because the combination of economic cycles for chemicals and product cycles in pharmaceuticals were so frustrating.

Mr Hampel says: "Both companies will be more focused and management will be more exposed. They will also be able to participate in the restructuring which is taking place in their industries in a much more dynamic way." Neither will be the unassailable national institution that ICI still proved to be last year.

In the medium term, ICI Bio will face a tricky challenge. It has been boosted in size beyond Wellcome by the inclusion of other fast-growing, though temporarily troubled, businesses. Wellcome, however, has two big-league growth drugs which are enabling it to shrug off size limitations in marketing and distribution, partly by selling the sort of related businesses ICI Bio will include.

ICI faces the decline of Tenormin, the American patents on which expired last autumn, potentially reducing profits from that source by £150 million a year in 1993 as generics spoil margins. The group has a good portfolio of medium-sized drugs but no replacement blockbuster. If ICI Bio is not to be swallowed, management will need to make a swift decision on whether to merge with a group such as Wellcome, or seek to grow without blockbusters, for instance by buying a niche specialist such as Fisons, which would fit well.

In the short term, the main ramp of ICI is more vulnerable. At the bottom of the cycle, it made only £154 million of trading profits on £4.6 billion of turnover in the first half of this year. This conceals eminently successful and saleable divisions such as paints, a world leader, along with a diverse materials division that barely broke even on £1 billion of sales. This would have been much worse without the benefit of most of the £120 million of cost savings available in the half-year, thanks to ICI's forward thinking on the recession. At the other end of the cycle, the short ICI should still be capable of making £1 billion a year profit, though, as Sir Denis noted yesterday, there is little sign of an upturn. Lord Hanson and his like will not miss the implications.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Darling is budding

YESTERDAY'S promotion of Alistair Darling, MP for Edinburgh Central, to the shadow front bench treasury team under Gordon Brown, shadow chancellor, is likely to mean a new face in merchant bank dining rooms during Labour's next efforts to woo the City on the "prawn cocktail" circuit. Darling, aged 48 — "Darling Alistair" as the City will no doubt know him — is widely expected to step into the shoes of Mo Mowlam, Labour's former City spokesperson, who, with Brown and leader John Smith, did much to give Labour a credible City profile in the run-up to the last election. Although not known for his City connections, Darling, an advocate educated at Aberdeen University, won huge plaudits as Labour's junior home affairs spokesman when he forced through several key concessions on the government's unpopular asylum bill. Darling entered the Commons in the first year of the Thatcher government in 1979 and his potential was quickly spotted by both the Labour leadership and Scottish Tories who were said to have admitted privately that he was one of the most impressive performers among Scottish Labour MPs. Fiercely bright, it is thought his quick wit — "sharp enough to cut himself", says one political journalist — will go down well in City circles.

Woolly search

WHAT is it between opera and sheep? Glyndebourne would not be the same without them and now David Freeman of the Opera Factory is looking for sponsors with some connection with the woolly creatures. Freeman caused much hilarity this week by taking his opera company to Wiltshire to study the bas-



Darling: a sharp wit

ing habits of sheep in preparation for the singers' forthcoming parts in Yan Tan Tethera, Harrison Birtwistle's opera about two rival shepherds. Now he is hoping that a company will sponsor the production at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in September and is approaching firms with sheepish connections. The International Wool Secretariat, the Sheep Shop in Covent Garden and the Nationwide Building Society, which features sheep in its adverts, have all been approached and any sponsor with woolly connections should get a good deal. Haagen-Daz was reportedly delighted with its sponsorship of Freeman's Don Giovanni in which all the guests at the banquet were served Haagen-Daz icecream.

IT will be interesting to see how many applicants there are for the job of financial controller in a "newly created in-house pensions department" advertised in yesterday's Financial Times. The advert offers a "competitive salary" and "substantial large company benefits" — which is just as well. The company, if you have not already guessed, is Mirror Group Newspapers.

Going whacko

IN something of a departure from the usual visits to the op-

era, UBS Phillips & Drew is tonight taking top clients off to Wembley for Michael Jackson's concert. John Wriglesworth, building society analyst, who is organising the party, says the group will be "going whacko for Jackson" with the teeny-boppers and confirms they are taking binoculars so they can make their own judgment on the world's most famous nose. Should the binoculars not prove powerful enough, the group could always train them on the Michael Jackson who will be sitting in their own box. But they are likely to be disappointed there, too. He is Michael Jackson, chief executive of the Birmingham Midshires Building Society, and his nose is said to be "small and pointed, without a single rip or tuck in sight". Needless to say, the editor of the Daily Mirror has not been invited.

IS Antony Pilkington's concern about his shares any reflection of Pilkington's share price, down from 169p to 96p? Pilkington says the March 1992 accounts were wrong — he owns 1,191,480 shares, not 1,119,480, as printed. At the current price, a shortfall of 70,000 shares makes quite a difference.

Seat of yearning

THERE will be no excuse for bad behaviour from graduates of the London Business School in future following Dixon's £1 million donation to fund a new chair in Business Ethics and Social Responsibility. Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixon's, says he hopes all MBA students will take the course and the search is now on for an academic to fill the professorship. Kalms says the aim is not to focus on affairs such as Blue Arrow and Guinness but to look at wider social responsibilities and open up the discussion on ethics.

DEBRA ISAAC

Cynicism has usurped judgment

From Sean Hand
Sir, My proposals for a new legal framework for Occupational Pension Schemes (July 15th) have elicited responses from Mrs J Marshall and Mr N F Rothe, which suggest that my motives for proposing reform are self-serving and mercenary. It would appear that excessive cynicism has usurped sound judgment. Regulation of the sort I envisage, would result in some increased costs for pension schemes. But that cost is to be weighed against the cost of compensating the victims of pension fund fraud in the absence of any formal system of compensation or asset insurance. The creation of an effective alternative to High Court litigation, would reduce legal costs not increase them and provide scheme beneficiaries with an affordable means of obtaining redress.

The use of the Maxwell pensioners by the government as a lever to extract compensation from institutions eager to preserve self-regulation, has yet to bear fruit. It would appear that the desire to

preserve self-regulation is stronger than any sense of responsibility to those whom the system has failed.

Your correspondents are doubtless correct in emphasising the importance for employers to control pension funding costs. But members deserve some say as well. If increased recognition of members' rights is not forthcoming they may well pre-empt the employer's decision to withdraw from occupational schemes.

It is true that other European countries are becoming convinced of the virtues of having funded pension schemes, and the UK pensions industry has much valuable experience in this area. However, I should be astonished if any European pensions expert would be impressed by a system of law and regulation which not only failed to prevent a Maxwell, but then failed to take effective action to prevent a repetition of it. Yours faithfully, Sean Hand, Cameron Markby Hewitt, 40 Tower Hill, EC3.

How share promoters can aid small investors

From Mr Harold Davis
Sir, In your Comment (July 24) on the public response to recent share issues, you discuss steps taken by promoters of new issues who wish to encourage interest by private investors. As a private investor who is a potential follower of new issues, may I please add another suggestion to the list? Instead of assuming that all serious investors regularly buy specialist financial newspa-

pers, will promoters of new issues make the concession to the private investor of printing share sale application forms in the general press a little more widely? By facilitating matters for the private investor, they might then secure the advantages associated with small shareholders. Yours faithfully, HAROLD DAVIS, 54-5 Newark Road, Lincoln.

Lloyd's obligation

From Sir John Dilke
Sir, Lloyd's agents in all major ports around the world have long provided essential information about ships and cargoes, in peace and war, to the Admiralty and still do so. This places Her Majesty's government under an obligation to assist Lloyd's in their present temporary difficulties.

If that is not done, and soon, we may witness the demise of what has for three centuries been one of our foremost national — or rather international — institutions, which daily loses credibility.

Yours faithfully, JOHN DILKE, Ludpit, Etchingham, East Sussex.



1992 Half Year Results

The unaudited trading results of the Group for the second quarter and first half of 1992, with comparative figures for 1991, are as follows:

ICI Group financial highlights					
*Group means Imperial Chemical Industries PLC and its subsidiaries.					
*£m means millions of pounds sterling.					
Second Quarter			First Half		
1991	1992		1991	1992	
£m	£m		£m	£m	
3,316	3,090	Turnover	6,368	6,145	
309	208	Profit before taxation	507	420	
207	140	Net profit	330	284	
29.3p	19.6p	Earnings per £1 Ordinary Share	46.6p	39.9p	
		Dividends per £1 Ordinary Share	21.0p	21.0p	

Full statutory accounts for the year 1991, together with an unaudited audit report, have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

Trading results for the first nine months of 1992 will be announced on Thursday 29 October 1992.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 92.3 (day's range 92.2-92.3).									
Mail Rates for July 30									
	Range	Clove	7 month	3 month					
Australia	3.2040-3.2147	3.2040-3.2071	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Canada	59.44-59.46	59.44-59.41	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Copenhagen	10.9345-10.9703	10.9345-10.9480	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Frankfurt	1.0670-1.0695	1.0670-1.0680	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Hamburg	2.8424-2.8507	2.8424-2.8450	100-par	100-par	100-par				
London	240.04-241.96	240.04-241.54	108.17-par	121-39586	121-39586				
Madrid	18.18-18.25	18.18-18.25	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Moscow	2147-2621.56	2147-2621.56	46-5236	134-14534	134-14534				
Osaka	2.2631-2.2717	2.2631-2.2716	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Paris	10.56-10.57	10.56-10.56	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Stockholm	11.1705-11.2056	11.1705-11.1907	110-100	323-3213	323-3213				
Switzerland	3.9920-4.0014	3.9950-4.0001	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Tokyo	10.3165-10.3466	10.3165-10.3179	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Yokohama	24.16-24.25	24.16-24.25	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Other	19.9883-20.0599	19.9883-20.0148	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Other	2.3367-2.5436	2.3367-2.5398	100-par	100-par	100-par				
Source: BofA									
Premium: 1/2% Discount: 1/2%									

Fresh way to hunt for development cash

By Derek Harris

THERE are many opportunities for raising grants and other aid from EC sources, but few get to grips with the complexity of doing so. Now a pan-European database approach is being worked out. This would allow a business based in the UK to decide whether locating in some other EC country might prove more advantageous.

The man intent on introducing this new dimension in the hunt for development cash is Bob Spray, newly appointed director of the European Resources Centre for Industrial Restructuring and Development (CERRM), which is based in France. He was formerly with British Coal Enterprise, the jobs creation arm of British Coal.

The centre aims to help disadvantaged areas of Europe, mainly by fostering new businesses.

Mr Spray said: "There is substantial financial aid available, so long as you know what is applicable to a particular company's need."

Smaller businesses in Britain could benefit, according to Mr Spray. He said: "There are 23 different directorates in the EC making funding available. At present, you have to decide which fund you will go for and then you have to see if it is applicable to your circumstances." He went on: "I want it to be the other way around, so that the system is user orientated. You should be able to say what your need is and for a database to throw up all the possibilities across

all of the directorates and the EC countries."

There are several existing databases, the pioneer is at Strathclyde University and is used as the basis for some others.

Well along the pan-European road is Finance for Business, based in Worsop, Nottinghamshire, which not only covers the UK, but EC grants and aid available in other key European countries. It expects to have covered every national market in Europe by the year end.

CERRM is at Maison de la Formation, Centre Jean Monnet, 54400 Longuey, France; telephone (33) 82 25 24 80.



"I just wish that all the people who tell me they envy my independence could meet you!"

Market gap led to success

By Simon Walsh

IN THE early part of 1988, Sten Chesser, then managing director of Everest & Jennings, which is a leading wheelchair manufacturer, believed he had spotted a gap in a market. It was an unusual gap between an infinite variety of aids for elderly and disabled people and their intended market. Mostly, potential buyers did not know the products existed.

The company materialised as Keep Able, with a 10,000 square foot showroom near Kew Bridge in south-west London. Backed by funding of just over £1 million, much of which came from 3i, the venture capital company, Keep Able began with a staff of six and achieved a first-year turnover of £250,000. Today, there is a staff of 40 and annual sales are close to £4 million.

Last month saw the opening of a 12,000 square foot showroom in Dudley, in the West Midlands. It had meant finding premises on one level, easy to reach by road or public transport and offering safe parking with easy access to the building. On display is a broad range of goods from a tap turner and walking sticks to a purpose-designed kitchen and a through-floor wheelchair lift. Specially trained sales staff are supported by occupational therapists.

Mr Chesser said: "Our philosophy is not to ask people what they want, but to ask them what their problems are. That might sound like a silly question if the customer has come in to choose an elevating bath seat. But then you go on to ask



Helping the elderly and disabled: Keep Able's Sten Chesser with head therapist Tina Stevens

the customer to show you how it is in one of the display bathrooms we have in the centre and, watching them get in and out of the bath, you might see that they don't require an elevating bath seat costing £300, but two grab rails totalling £12."

He added: "Obviously, the converse could also be true. Either way, our responsibility is to give the customer the right advice."

In first attracting customers, Keep Able eschewed advertising in favour of direct approaches to

professional advisers in the social services and such organisations as Age Concern and Arthritis Care. He believed it was possible to capitalise on the reputations of himself and his team, which included David Russell, the marketing manager, and Tina Stevens, the head occupational therapist, who manages the London showroom.

Mr Chesser said: "We met the professional advisers and convinced them that Keep Able was

good. We said: 'Try us once and, if we perform, continue, but try us once.' You can only do that if you have confidence in your capabilities." He accepts that profit can be an uncomfortable topic when customers are disabled or frail and elderly. However, he needs the right margins because he intends to expand the business further.

He said: "We want to become the leading, most-respected supplier of these products and, to fulfil that aim, we must expand."

The Small Business Research Trust is to expand its investigations into the exporting potential of small businesses. A quarterly survey is being made, backed by sponsorship from the Royal Bank of Scotland and the first report is due in September. The trust has already established that small firms involved in exporting are far more heavily orientated towards overseas sales than larger companies in a similar position.

As well as monitoring exporting performance, the survey will look at common problems facing small exporters, such as finding and monitoring overseas distributors and agents, market information, securing payments and coping with exchange rate movements.

The survey will cover about 4,000 active exporters, employing 50 or fewer people and should be a useful barometer of UK small business performance, especially as the single European market opens up.

National Westminster Bank is establishing a network of regional technology executives, the idea being to create at local level strong links with the "technology community" in which smaller businesses often play an important role. The first to be appointed are Neil Sellick in Bristol, who is responsible for the South West and Chris Keir, based in Nottingham, who covers the East Midlands. The bank has already trained 125 technology managers so that technology businesses can be serviced more effectively.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

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INFOTECH TIMES

Super-power chip is behind the clock

Personal computers may be getting easier to use, as anyone who has recently bought one knows, but there is no way to avoid at least some of the jargon if a buyer wants to tell the difference between the models on offer.

The first point to identify is the type of computer chip used. The majority of personal computers, more than 100 million, use one of the chips made by the American company Intel. It has a wide selection — the basic groups being the 286, 386 and 486.

Like engine sizes in cars, the capacity of the chip governs the speed, power and, arguably, the comfort level that the PC user can enjoy. Unlike car engines, however, the assumption — so far proved correct — is that, in time, everyone migrates to using PCs with increasingly powerful chips.

Under preparation at the moment is the next chip in the Intel series. It will not, however, be called the 586. Intel is beginning to face competition from "clone makers" of its chips — a battle it is fighting through the US courts as well

Intel is banking on the "P5" putting it back ahead of its rivals, reports Matthew May

as in the marketplace. As Intel discovered in the US, a string of numbers cannot be given a trademark so competitors are able to name their clones using the Intel numbers. For the new chip, the P5 as it is known while under development, Intel will be dreaming up a new name that will include at least some letters of the alphabet.

Another difference between the P5 and its predecessors is that it is going to be late. Last week the company said that the chip would not go into production until next Easter, three months later than initially planned.

With so many personal computers using earlier chips

made by the company the announcement is important within such a competitive industry. Several leading computer manufacturers are hoping that the new chip will revitalise demand for the most powerful PCs, the most profitable end of the market.

Manufacturers are fighting hard to sell their PCs and prices are still being cut. PCs using the present top-of-the-range 486 chip are appearing at little more than £1,000 — not much above 386 systems.

Competition from clone makers on existing chips has also forced Intel to cut prices so the P5 should give it some breathing space by putting it temporarily at least, back ahead of its rivals.

Putting on its best face, Intel argues that the delay in the P5 will allow it to improve the manufacturing process and enable more 486s to be produced as demand has been higher than expected.

The company will also have more time to test the chip to ensure that it has no bugs — a vital precaution after the embarrassment the company suffered with early versions of one



Chipping away at the competition: a 6in silicon "wafer" containing more than a hundred Intel computer chips

of its chips. Each new chip will contain over three million transistors on a piece of silicon about the size of a standard postage stamp. The chip will be twice as powerful as the 486 and will be initially placed in advanced machines aimed at corporations. An added fea-

ture will be that it should be easier to use to design so-called "fault tolerant" computers that duplicate functions to prevent breakdowns.

But who really needs the new chip? "Anything that involves multimedia, or displaying video and sound will

benefit," Hans Geyer, Intel's general manager in Europe, says. "Better graphics and higher resolution are wanted and so more powerful chips are needed." One problem is that software that can take full advantage of a new chip always seems to lag a couple of

years behind. Although the P5 will be aimed initially at specialist applications, Intel believes that it will become commonly used within a couple of years. Some competitors, however, argue that present technology is more than enough for most custom-

ers who are more concerned about price than extra power. The 386 fulfils the requirements of most PC users, they say, with the 486 still really only for specific uses in areas such as controlling networks or computer aided design.

The research firm Dataquest is predicting that revenue from semiconductors will rise by 5 per cent this year. "Overall growth in the industry is being fuelled by the demand for workstations, portable PCs, and picture-based software that require greater amounts of system memory," Gene Norrett, Dataquest vice president, said. He predicted that sales of the 486 chip would jump as more of those relatively new technologies were adopted by customers.

By 1994, personal computers using the P5 chip should be out in force in the high street. By then Intel plans to have its successor ready — a project already under way.

Infotech Multimedia pages 26-27

IBM prices drop again

IBM Europe, is cutting the prices of its PS/2 desktop computers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa by 25 to 42 per cent. The price cuts follow reductions of between 14 and 33 per cent carried out in May and June and reflect the price war among leading computer manufacturers.

IBM said that it was also providing some models with the OS/2 operating environment. The latest price cuts should reduce the price of IBM's basic PS/2 to about £500.

Costly choice

A HEALTH authority spent £43 million on a computer system that did not work. Now Wessex

through a 12in antenna mounted on their car roof. Officials said images sent by the system are still too blurred for commercial use and researchers are working on ways to improve the picture. In Japan, about 700,000 car television sets are sold each year.

VDU study

WORKING with visual display units (VDUs) does not increase the chances of miscarriage for pregnant women, according to research sponsored largely by the Health and Safety Executive.

Dr Colin Mackay, chief ergonomist at the agency, said 450 women took part in a study, the results of which are published in the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine*.

"The results of the new British study are reassuring and back up the earlier studies abroad," he said. "It shows that pregnant women who work, even habitually, at VDUs are not at increased risk of miscarriage."

Relieving stress

AUSTRALIAN researchers have combined the ancient Chinese practise of acupuncture with high technology to produce an earpiece they claim will relieve stress. The earpiece is linked to a pocket-sized, battery-powered unit which gives electronic relief similar to the insertion of acupuncture needles, its co-developer Dean Richards said.

The ear is the most effective acupuncture point for easing stress, he says. "The technique is transcutaneous, in other words, a small electric current is used."

The unit is being tested with oil rig workers in the North Sea. "Trials are being carried out on pulse rate and blood pressure and the first results are encouraging," he said.

IT FELL OFF THE TOP OF A LORRY



plan in 1982 for a system linking the hospitals put costs at £26 million. But when finally scrapped in 1990, the project had cost £43 million, the equivalent of 1,400 liver transplants or 16,000 hip operations.

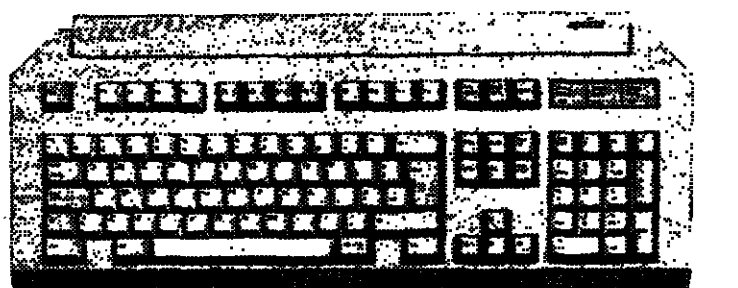
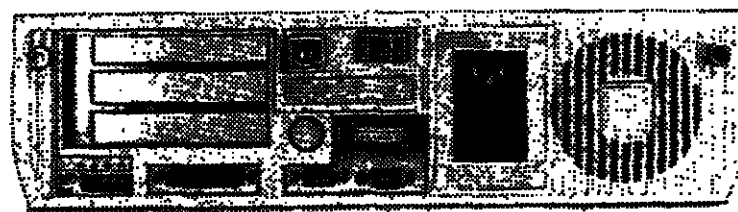
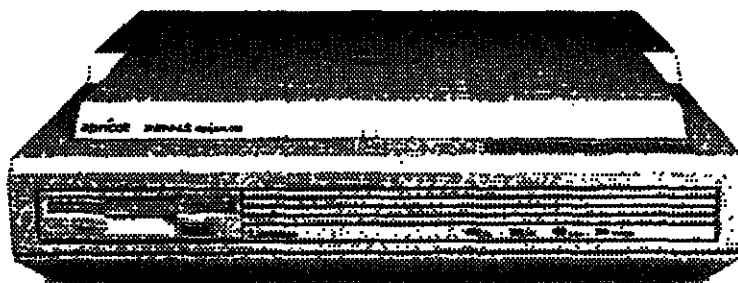
Some of the work was being put to use, Ken Jarrold, the authority's manager, said. But at least £20 million had been wasted.

TV on the move

DRIVERS will one day be able to watch satellite TV in their cars when government researchers perfect a bar-shaped antenna designed to replace unwieldy dish receivers, says Japan's telecommunications ministry.

Using a new slow-speed digital transmission system capable of sending information through satellites at a speed of 64,000 bits per second, drivers will be able to watch satellite TV

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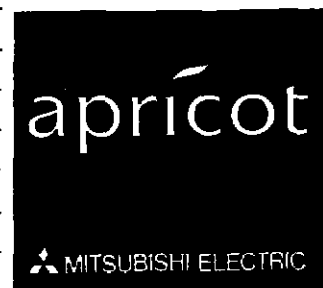
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Myriad messages strike home

A new technology mimics the way people work, reports Clive Couldwell

Often misunderstood by users and even by suppliers, the term multimedia refers to a group of complementary technologies that should help people to understand business information better and enable them to communicate with other people by computer.

"One day", says Charles Chang, director of Prism, a European research programme, "computers will reach a stage that more closely approximates to how human beings want to deal with each other. Multimedia will be crucial."

This emerging form of computing has the potential to mix audio, text, graphics, animation, special effects, still images and video in a wide variety of products, including games for home entertainment and videoconferencing for business. Its main aim is to mimic the way in which people work. Few senior managers work in a world of text only. Several companies featured in research carried out by the City University Business School are experimenting with desktop television.

"The effective implementation of multimedia requires skills that go way beyond those to be found in a conventional IT department," says Clive Holtham, professor of information management at City University Business School. "In our research, we were struck by the positive attitude of directors and senior executives to the use of multimedia in systems designed for them."

Of course, some products have been on the market for several years, carrying a "multimedia" label. However, a rapid rise in computer processing power to accommodate the new applications, its falling price and the success of graphical user interfaces, which make computers easier to use for the layperson, has meant that multimedia products are now being developed more quickly.

Research based on the market only a year ago is already out of date. IBM, Digital, Intel, Microsoft, Apple, Lotus and Commodore are some of the big computer companies to declare their commitment to the multimedia concept with strategy or product announcements. Within the next five years, digitised information — paper-



Stalking the progress of multimedia: Clive Holtham, professor of information management at the City University Business School

based data translated into the format computers can understand, and stored on compact disc or transmitted by computer networks — will be available at home and in the workplace.

Much of the coverage of multimedia, particularly in the United States, has focused on its future in home entertainment. However, multimedia is still seen by most potential customers as a solution to skills shortages and by business technology suppliers as a way out of the fierce computer price wars.

Training has always been the biggest application for interactive, multimedia technology. Early systems could handle only text and still images, but suppliers now sell systems that also accommodate video and audio in which a student can learn new skills by responding to the equivalent of film clips on a computer screen.

The multimedia market also

includes two new types of application: document image processing (DIP) and geographic information systems (GIS). DIP systems store documents as a series of digital images. Suppliers are developing DIP systems to process and retrieve colour images. Developers have

Using video, graphics and animation can improve the impact of a presentation

produced DIP applications using digitised still and moving images. GIS store and manipulate a combination of digitised maps, text and numerical information.

Manuals are also being supplied as the equivalent of an electronic catalogue, where products and trial programs can be sent to potential customers in a more convenient

way. Publishers in the consumer market, who are supplying products for education and entertainment, see multimedia as a natural extension of their paper-based publishing activities.

The broadcasting industry in the US and Europe has started to use digital video and is finding multimedia particularly easy to use. The editing process is more simple and flexible. Video images are compressed into relatively small sizes, then stored on the one computer disc. In the old days, the equivalent process stored full-size images on a large number of separate discs and tapes. The new process means any image can be called back instantly, thus speeding up the editing process.

However, the market for desktop video applications is very much in its infancy. Although the technology is available, it is not yet cheap enough, nor easy enough to use. At

present, systems comprise separate components working together. These will later give way to much more tightly integrated systems.

Using video, graphics and animation for a presentation can improve its impact and effectiveness. Recent research cited by Commodore claims that retention rates among listeners rise by 50 per cent, the persuasive power of the presentation is increased by more than 40 per cent, comprehension improves by 30 per cent and meeting time is reduced by more than a quarter.

The Gulf war limited the range of executive travel and proved just how useful it was to communicate with a colleague over a videoconferencing link. At present, most videoconferencing systems sit in dedicated rooms or studios. With desktop videoconferencing, PC users will be able to transmit any image on their screen by public telephone network to appear in an identical form on another colleague's screen.

Sailing towards a new world

Multimedia is expected to succeed just as PCs did in the 1980s

Hopes are high in the computer industry that multimedia will produce the sales in the 1990s that the personal computer created in the 1980s. Senior executives from many computer companies have been heralding multimedia as a "revolutionary" breakthrough in the dissemination of information employing a mixture of high technologies.

Many customers and suppliers are still confused about what constitutes a multimedia package. Ovum, a market research company, offers a broad-brush definition of the term as computers and software that "support the interactive use of at

least one of audio, still image or motion video". The take-up of multimedia products so far, however, has been confined to a few specialised markets, in particular, training and information kiosks in retail stores and other outlets. In 1991, training packages represented more than 60 per cent of revenues from multimedia, kiosks 38 per cent, and general business usage only 0.8 per cent, says an Ovum report.

By 1994, however, the technology should have spread to encompass business tools such as spreadsheets and word processing. Ovum predicts that in 1997 "the communications market will have started to make a significant impact as the fastest-growing section". In particular, it mentions electronic mail packages, which will support multimedia, and what are called groupware activities, such as videoconferencing.

Although training remains the biggest market for multimedia products, suppliers are already looking at the potential in other fields. ICL predicts that by the mid-1990s media-based point-of-purchase systems will overtake training as the main use of multimedia systems. Mul-

timedia vendors, however, will have an uphill struggle to convince the business market to adopt their products. Although the suppliers argue that multimedia can achieve considerable savings, there are still a number of obstacles.

Multimedia is expensive and the technology still improves in many areas and there is no established international standard, so the customer cannot be sure of expanding the system he or she has bought.

"We are in this position at the moment because of the cost of multimedia and its complexity," says Trevor Wing, Videologic's marketing director. "Extensions to handle sound and video are at present outside the operating system."

However, Mr Wing says there are developments at the moment that could give the market its much needed boost. By the end

of the year, Microsoft Windows, IBM's OS/2 and Apple's System 7 operating systems will all support multimedia interfaces as standard.

This could make a multimedia PC as easy to use as any other application and, because margins are tight in the PC market, the suppliers will not charge extra for the extensions.

Ovum predicts that the market for multimedia systems will grow fast in the next five years from a 1991 figure of £250 million in the United States and Europe, to £5 billion by 1997. Ovum adds a warning, however, that many users are suspicious of what they see as another technology seeking a solution.

"Many suppliers are still obsessed with the notion of a 'killer' application, one that will enable them to sell products on a large scale into a sector of the market as yet unreached by the PC," the report concludes.

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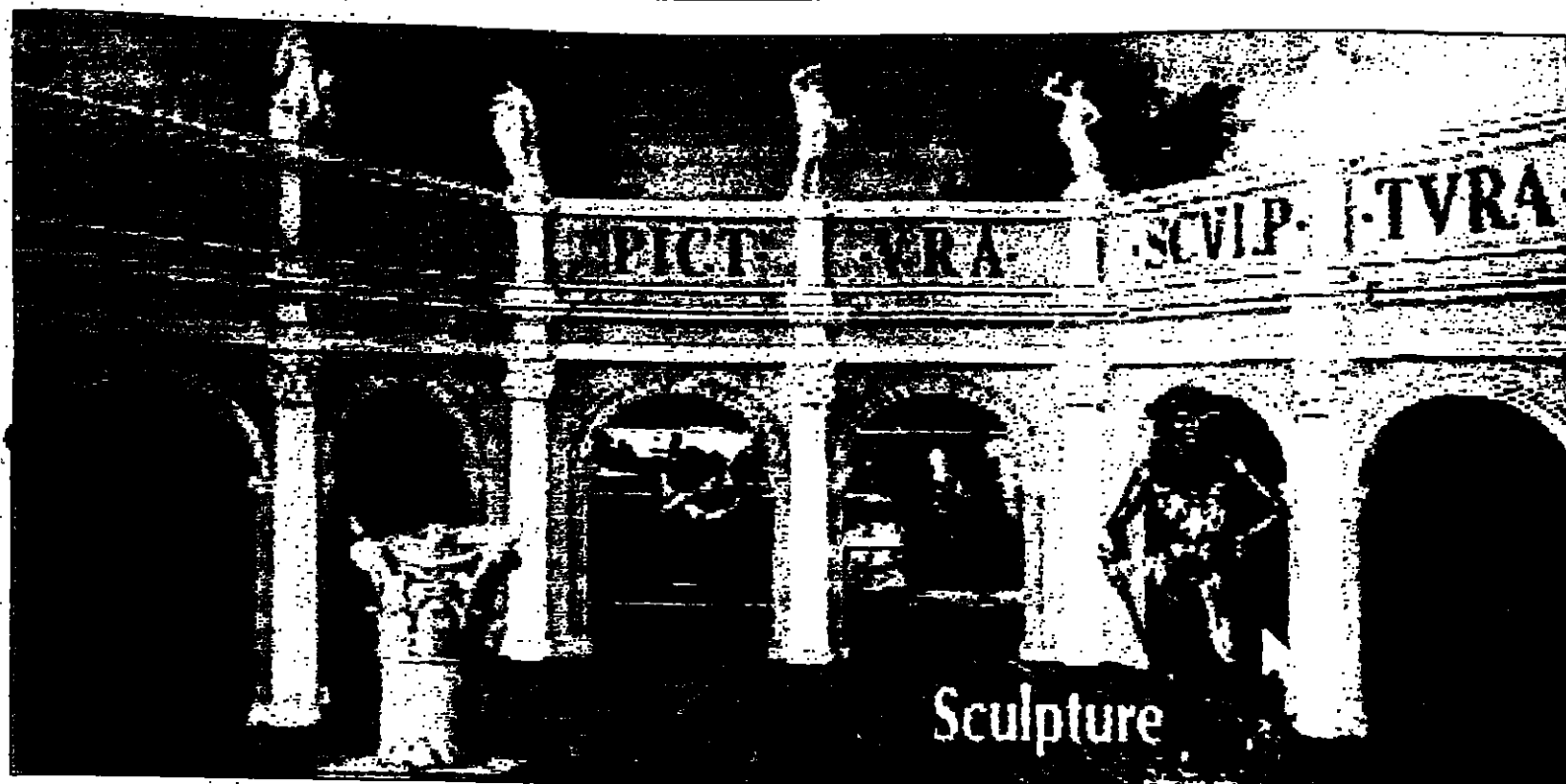
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What multimedia technology can do: exploring the art of the Renaissance in Florence — one of the new interactive compact discs from Philips

Dial-a-movie is on the way

If your idea of a relaxing evening is to slump in front of the television, beware. Computer and consumer electronics companies aim to change your viewing habits. They are racing to develop home multimedia products, which could make some viewing an active experience, rather than a passive one.

These pieces of consumer electronics will offer "interactivity" — the ability to control and manipulate sound, video, text, graphics and animation. Manufacturers hope the market will be worth billions of pounds with the promise of interactive video games, electronic books, videotelephones, home shopping and libraries and databases, accessed from a television set.

The first multimedia machines use CD-ROM (compact disc read only memory) discs, which look like audio CDs and hold vast amounts of data. A CD-ROM can store more than 250,000 pages of typed text or a mixture of text and pictures. In the future, cable, satellite and digital telephone systems may also bring multimedia programmes to the home.

Multimedia supporters, however, admit it is hard to sell. "Trying to describe multimedia is like trying to describe the taste of chocolate," says Graham Brown-Martin, the chairman of Electronic Pictures and Sound in Cambridge.

Film choice and shopping will be possible from your front room, George Cole writes

Earlier this year, Philips started selling its CD-I (compact disc interactive format) in the UK. A CD-I deck looks like a videorecorder, plugs into the home television and stereo system and is operated by a remote control handset. It costs about £600. Philips has produced about 30 CD-I discs,

which include arts, sport, educational, games and children's titles, and plans interactive movies, allowing viewers to choose how the plot develops. "Some people talk about a home revolution, but multimedia is about changing people's behaviour and that takes a long time," says Dick Fletcher, the managing director of New Media, a London multimedia company.

Kodak is preparing its Photo CD format, which allows users to store photographs on CD and watch them on a home television set, and Sony has produced the £350 Data Discman, a hand-held, "electronic book", which uses miniature CD-ROM discs to store text, sound and graphics. "Companies

selling multimedia players have a problem," says Isobel Pring, a multimedia consultant. "They are trying to attract caring parents concerned about the amount of television their children are watching. That is why there is such an emphasis on interactivity and educational titles. But the most attractive multimedia discs are likely to be 'shoot 'em up' games."

Commodore introduced its CDTV multimedia player last year. CDTV was designed as a family multimedia machine but it did not sell well, so Commodore is aiming at the educational and computer games markets.

Last year, the large computer groups Apple and IBM formed Kaleida, a company that aims to develop multimedia software standards that will be licensed to other companies. Microsoft, the American software company, has produced the MPC (multimedia PC) standard, which enables many IBM and compatible computers to become multimedia machines. Some com-

panies have produced MPC computers and upgrade kits but many believe the MPC is more likely to succeed in education and business.

Mr Brown-Martin says: "The penetration of home computers is quite low and few people will want a computer and keyboard connected to the family television."

However, multimedia is likely to have its biggest impact in the area of interactive television. This system will use satellite, cable and digital television and telephone systems to bring multimedia into the home. Explorer Technology last year used a system called DVI (digital video interactive) to squeeze or compress moving digital images into a conventional television channel. National Transcommunications, of Winchester, Hampshire, has developed a land-based digital system for the Independent Television Commission, which could also offer multimedia services.

"Interactive television will introduce home shopping and banking, videophones and the armchair video store," says Michael Winsor, who has the curious title of technical evangelist, for Microsoft Europe.

"You will be able to sit in your living room, dial up a movie and have it sent to your home via cable or telephone. Interactive television opens the door to lots of pay-per-view services."

Right mix to solve the skills shortage

New training methods may help Britain to beat the slump

The skills shortage in Britain is still potentially a brake on economic recovery, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce notes in a survey. Tackling the shortage has become the main practical aim of multimedia. As one report says, "there are only three uses for multimedia — training, training and training."

The government's response to unemployment and the skills shortages has been to set up a unit specifically to develop and promote what it calls "flexible learning techniques". Multimedia is one method. Simulation, compact disc and even virtual reality technologies are others.

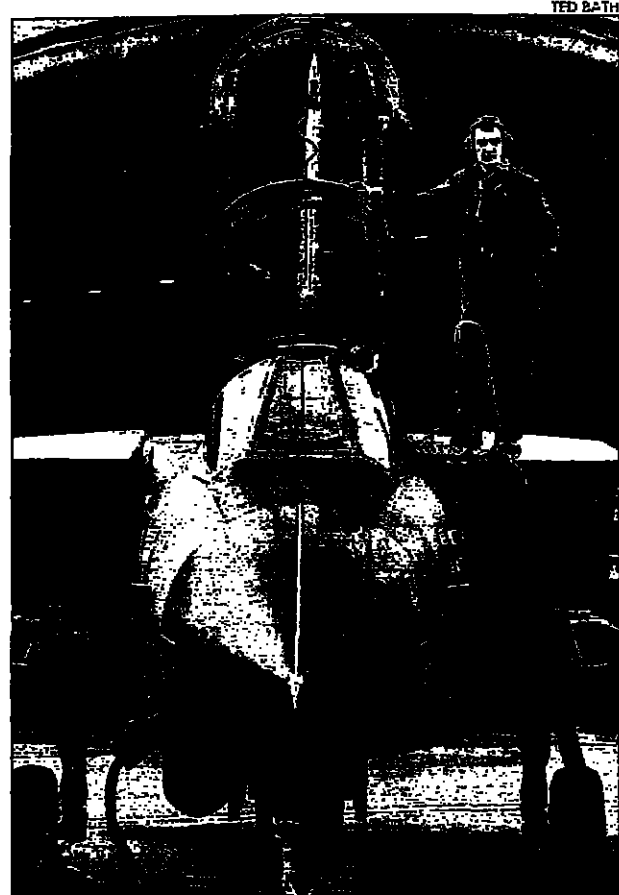
"Multimedia is very attractive," Alan Clarke, a senior training adviser, says. "Sometimes it is a lovely solution, but you have to ask first what the problem is."

One instance of an appropriate use identified by the unit was the development of a system for the West Midlands Fire Brigade, in conjunction with Portsmouth University, to simulate a major fire for use in the training of firefighters.

Mr Clarke's office is also responsible for a system, produced with Liverpool John Moores University, for NHS staff engaged in cervical cancer screening. He says: "The only alternative is to view thousands of slides through a microscope, probably with an experienced specialist looking over your shoulder."

With multimedia, the slides can be incorporated in a computer system and an expert commentary made available for it. The project also spreads expertise in multimedia and enables the former Liverpool Polytechnic to build a body of competence while clearing any bugs from its own systems.

Such practical and immediate use is also emphasised in the private sector, although users are looking carefully at



Tornado fighter: multimedia is used in ground crew training

costs. Suppliers, including Commodore and IBM, argue that multimedia systems can be assembled relatively cheaply and that users have all the functions of a personal computer. Commodore systems, for example, are being used in 120 Derbyshire schools in Japanese language, lifestyle and culture classes. The project was started when Toyota invested £700 million in the county. In this case, multimedia stands in for specialist teachers and materials that are not available in sufficient quantity.

At British Aerospace, multimedia serves as preliminary training for the ground crews of the different nations buying the Tornado aircraft. Multimedia lays the groundwork to ensure that all trainees are at the same level when more detailed courses start.

IBM cites the case of an insurance company using multimedia to improve customer service in its branches. Course material is developed at head office and fed to branches in the style of a library. At a future stage it could be distributed electronically, through a network. IBM expects networked multimedia to become more common.

John Harrington, in charge of multimedia for IBM, says: "Many organisations have a wealth of material in the form of slides, presentation material and still photographs."

But multimedia is not likely to suit all types of training. "There's a tendency for people to dip into it," Mark Murphy, an Apple training manager, says. "There could be a problem with multimedia if it is run by technologists and developed by technologists."

DAVID GUEST

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Captain's advice proves key to Hodgson's success

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Britain's drugs disgrace tarnishes the Games

WEIGHTLIFTING. The black sheep of the sporting world, is in disgrace again, thanks to the weakness or stupidity — probably both — of two British competitors. Athletics, so transparently exposed as a cheating sport in Seoul four years ago, also provides another positive test from Britain. How far can this continue to be tolerated?

The short, obvious answer is that sports with consistent positive tests should be banned from the Olympic Games. That penalty was suggested for weightlifting following Seoul, but it is, regrettably, inconceivable that athletics, the central sport of the Olympics, yet one in which the guilt record is almost as bad, could be excluded.

The tenor of a smooth-running, untroubled Olympic Games was rudely broken by the announcement yesterday

DAVID MILLER IN BARCELONA

from the British team. The exposure, though wretched for the British, can be interpreted two ways: negative for the Games, because it demonstrates that competitors are tempted to exploit drugs even with the probability of being randomly tested; positive, because the vigilance of governing bodies is revealed before a sceptical public.

The International Olympic Committee cares. I hope. Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president, responded immediately to the new scandal. "We will have to discuss the issue at the executive board," he said.

"Weightlifting has made great efforts [on testing], but this shows that some irregularities are continuing. We are very worried about this sport."

Tamas Ajan, the general secretary of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), was wringing his

hands in dismay yesterday, angry that the British had disgraced what he hoped was to be a clean Olympic competition: disgraced not so much, in his opinion, by the positive tests, as by the publicity of the British Olympic Association's formal — and unavoidable — press conference to announce their competitors had been suspended and sent home.

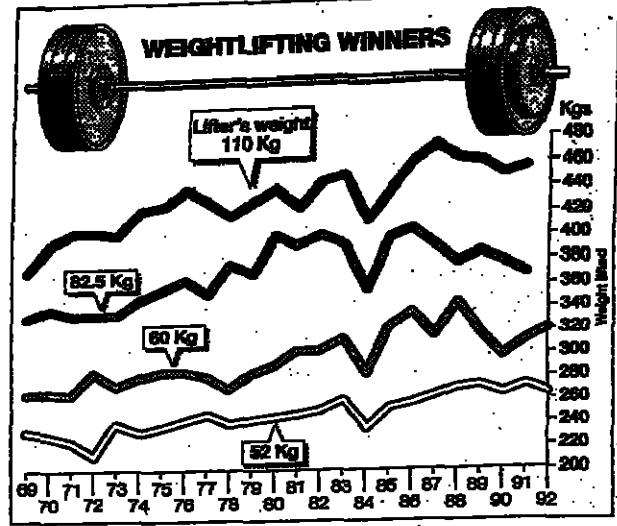
The IWF had arranged for pre-competition testing here of all 263 competitors, specifically so that no medal-winner, or indeed anyone else, could be found guilty during competition. Ajan's irritation with the events of yesterday is understandable, but no defence for his sport.

Weightlifting, which is a basic training routine for a majority of competitors in every other sport, is the most

logical, however, than saying MOT testing proves all vehicles are efficient, when it, in fact, proves that many are not.

Weightlifting, like it or not, continues to have a big problem and this will only be reversed by rigorous random testing, notably in the period a month or so before a main event. The sport has improved its record, to the point where its proportion of positive tests per head of total competitors in 1991 was fractionally better than the average among 36 Olympic sports.

Following positive tests at Seoul, Richard Pound, then an IOC vice-president, proposed to the executive board the following November that weightlifting should be temporarily suspended. The board resisted the proposal, but the occasion served to frighten the IWF into raising its anti-drug campaign. There



The graphic shows the winning total weights at Olympic and world championships in 52kg, 60kg, 82.5kg and 110kg classes since 1967. The drop in performance at the 1988 Los Angeles Games was due to the eastern European boycott

Chinese follow East German pattern

Li muscles in on Olympic swim medley title

FROM CRAIG LORD
IN BARCELONA

IT WAS fitting that Lin Li should deprive the former East Germany of the oldest world record in the book and beat the defending 200 metres medley champion, Daniela Hunger, into third place. Before the Berlin Wall fell, China had made its first contact with East Berlin and the progress towards mirroring a German pattern that was 17 years old had begun.

Li's effort of 2min 11.65sec was 0.08 of a second inside the time Ute Geweniger set in Berlin on American Independence day in 1981. The oldest records now stand to Mary T Meagher, the American who stunned the world by setting what many believe to be unassailable standards at 100 and 200 metres butterfly a month after Geweniger made her mark.

When the Berlin Wall fell, China took advantage of the outpouring of coaches from behind a torn iron curtain and



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its women swimmers were transformed from average club standard in Europe to world-beating champions within two years.

That progression was evident last night as Li, aged 21, who was seventh in Seoul, swam stroke for stroke with Summer Sanders of America, both within the world record pace from start to finish. A finger nail finish left Li, the world champion, 0.26sec ahead of Sanders, with Hunger, an eastern champion,

third, two seconds back.

The finger of suspicion that pointed at East Germany since its dominance of women's swimming started in 1973, has turned to China. But while Li is muscular, she is short, and next to Geweniger, at 6ft 3in, would have looked like Madam Butterfly.

Melvin Stewart, the American who grew up in the disgraced Jim Bakker's Praise The Lord Ministry, gave his gold medal won in the 200 metres butterfly to 76-year-old George Baxter, the man whom he calls his mentor. The Olympic record of 1min 56.26sec was a bonus.

The world champion who was on his own world record pace until 170 metres, said "Mr B" had paid for his college education and provided him with "everything I've ever dreamed".

Danyon Loader, aged 17, of New Zealand, lived his own dream, taking the silver in a national record of 1min 57.93sec. He said practising Tai-Chi helped him focus his mind on the race.

Mark Foster, of Barnet Copthall, London, finished sixth in 22.52sec, just outside his British record in the 50 metres freestyle. The race was won in an Olympic and European record of 21.91sec by Aleksandr Popov, the Russian who won the 100 metres freestyle three days ago. Matt Biondi, the defending champion who won five titles at Seoul was second, with Tom Jager, his American teammate third.

Way hopes broken by board

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN BANYOLES

PENNY Way's hopes of winning a gold medal in the Olympic windsurfer class ended in tears and despair yesterday. The former double world champion was forced out of the second race of the day when her centreboard snapped in two just as she was challenging for fourth place.

When Way came ashore, her anguish was etched on her face: four years of hard training had been ended by a faulty piece of equipment provided by the Spanish organisers.

Last night, Cliff Norbury, the British team manager, was talking bravely of claiming average points, but the Olym-

pic rules are explicit: "Breakages... shall not be grounds for redress."

"We know the rule," Norbury said, "but this is a very clear example of faulty equipment and we will do our best to obtain redress."

Barrie Edgington shared Way's feelings. His chances of a silver medal also ended during the second race of the day when officials judged him to have been a premature starter. The 1991 world champion has been struggling to regain his form after contracting a stomach bug while training in the polluted waters off Barcelona two weeks ago.

Boardman leads British pursuit

CHRIS Boardman, the first British gold medal winner at the Games, led the attempt to qualify for the quarter-finals of the 4,000 metres team pursuit last night at the Horta Velodrome, less than 24 hours after his win in the individual pursuit (Peter Bryan writes).

Twenty one teams were competing over 16 laps of the 250-metre wooden track, with the fastest eight going through. Britain were seeded thirteenth.

Doug Dailey, the national coach, made a late switch to

the anticipated quartet of Boardman, Bryan Steel, Glen Sword and Simon Lillistone, when the latter was replaced by Paul Jennings. 19, in his first senior international.

Lillistone had qualified for tonight's final of the 50km points race and may have missed the opening pursuit round to help conserve his strength.

Boardman led off the British effort, riding a full lap before Steel was relayed to the front. The squad moved smoothly, but Boardman

wanted more pace and later twice rode two full laps at the front.

Two laps from the end, Sword was tailed off, but the remaining three kept in formation to finish with a time of 4min 19.12sec, just outside the British record time set on the Barcelona track last September at the pre-Olympic meeting.

The British time was the fastest recorded at that point of the competition, but Italy, riding next, went faster with a time of 4:15.103.

British slip as medals are settled

IN A dramatic end to the Olympic Games three-day event, Australia took both the team and individual gold medals after a disastrous round by New Zealand's third rider, Andrew Nicholson, on Spinning Rhombus (Jenny MacArthur writes).

Matt Ryan, on Kibah Tie Toc, who only qualified for the Olympics at the eleventh hour, took the individual gold medal. Herbert Blocker, of Germany, on Feine Dame, won the silver medal while Blyth Tait, New Zealand's world champion, moved up to take the bronze medal on Messiah.

Britain, who had been in the silver medal position, dropped to sixth place after one of the most disappointing performances of recent Olympics. Their challenge disintegrated when Ian Starks Murphy himself failed to pass the final course inspection, which meant that Richard Walker's high score on Jacana had to count.

Even worse was to come. Mary Thomson, who had been lying in the fifth position overnight on King William, knocked five fences in the show jumping and dropped to ninth place. Karen Dixon finished sixth overall.

Baby Ben takes over from his disgraced idol

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA

LIKE Ben Johnson he wanted to be and like Ben Johnson he will be remembered. Baby Ben was Linford Christie's nickname for Jason Livingston and the little man with the shaven head, the red vest, the bullet start and the splayed hands in the set position was everything a Johnson in miniature should be. Everything, he insisted, except an athlete who would be tempted into taking drugs.

Livingston idolised Johnson and did not mind people knowing. Visitors to his house in Thornton Heath, South London, would be struck by the Johnson posters on his bedroom wall, still there even after the Canadian fell into disgrace. He would watch Johnson videos every day and he was fascinated by Johnson's "caveman" image.

"That's how I want to run," Livingston had said.

"Everyone liked Carl [Lewis] because he was a textbook runner. Mr Nice Guy," Livingston said. "Then Ben came along with that unorthodox style and caveman image, all aggressive. When I found out about the drugs scandal, it was like part of me died. It saddened me because I could not live with myself being Olympic champion, or even world junior champion, knowing that I cheated. It is a shame people have to go to these lengths to achieve what I want."

But to those lengths he went and yesterday Livingston, aged 21, became the first British athlete to be sent home from an Olympic Games for a drugs offence. He never did quite make it to world junior champion, but he came close, taking a silver medal in Sudbury two years ago.

Earlier that year, he had qualified to represent Britain in the European indoor championships and reached the final of the 60 metres, losing his job for taking unauthorised time off work. "I am not going to let anything get in the way of my athletics,"

JASON LIVINGSTON

Age: 21
Club: Sharnbrook Barnet
Personal bests: 100 metres: 1987: 10.8sec; 1988: 10.87sec; 1989: 10.47; 1990: 10.25; 1991: 10.32; 1992: 10.09.
Honours: 1989: European junior 100 metres bronze medal; 1989: European indoor 50 metres finalist; world junior 100 metres silver medal; 1992: European indoor 60 metres bronze; European Cup under-23 100 metres champion.

he said.

By the next European indoor championships, he was ready to step into Christie's shoes, succeeding him in March as the champion, recording a time that took him from 132nd in the world to fifth. The progression continued outdoors. In the South of England championship in June, he brought his 100 metres best down from 10.52sec to 10.09sec, the second-fastest Briton ever, just ahead of Allan Wells. But, as we know now, drugs were at work.

"I am embarrassed," Jim Fackin, his coach for six years until 18 months ago, said yesterday on hearing the news. "I would not have thought Jason glib enough to get involved in anything like that."

"When people used to talk about that sort of thing, he would say that he wouldn't even take an aspirin. He always felt he could do what Ben Johnson did without artificial aids."

Even Christie put his hand in his pocket to help, paying for him to go warm-weather training as a birthday present. For a while, he lent him Ron Roddan, his coach, though Tony Lester was his driving force in more recent months.

Livingston is the second British athlete this year to fail a drugs test. The first was Neal Brunning, a shot putter. They were room-mates on junior international trips.

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Tearful Troke has hopes shattered

Helen Troke's badminton dream lasted just 13 minutes. The British player left the court in tears after she was beaten 11-3, 11-1 by Tang Jinhong, the world champion, in the second round of the women's singles.

"She was just too good," Troke said. "She did not let me get into the game at all. After battling through the qualifying rounds, to get a draw like that in my first match was very, very tough."

Gill Clark and Julie Bradbury will have to wait tomorrow to play their second-round match against the Germans. Kirsten Ubben and Katrin Schmidt, after a protest by the British team manager, Steve Baddeley, was rejected.

Long wait ends

Latvia gained their first Olympic medal since 1936 when Afsanajis Kazimajis won the silver in the rapid fire pistol

shooting. "This is a medal for freedom," Kazimajis, who won gold for the Soviet Union in Seoul, said.

Morceli fit
The Algerian world champion, Noureddine Morceli, said he had overcome a pelvic injury and was confident of gold in the men's 1,500 metres.

Aoutita loses out

Said Aoutita was stripped of his indoor world 3,000 metres record of 3min 36.66sec when the IAAF ruled he had stayed out of his lane during the race in Athens on March 11.

Drawing clear

In an ill-tempered match, Australia and Spain drew 1-1 in pool A of the men's hockey tournament. The teams topped with five points each.